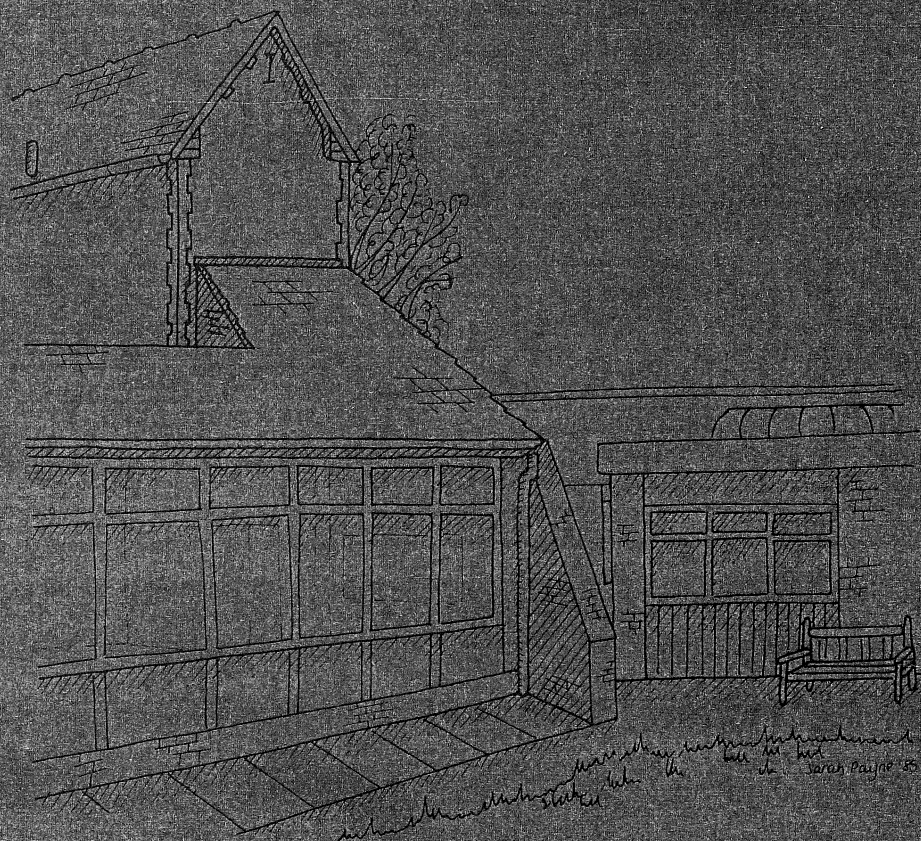


# ALCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL



THE RECORD  
1984 - 85

## AUTUMN TERM

The customarily active Autumn Term began with a visit to the 'Coca-Cola' athletics meeting at Crystal Palace, organised by Mr. Cowell. It was followed by the Girls' Public Speaking contest in which we were represented by Kate Newey, Karen Harman and Karon Woodward; they took second place. A lecture on the raising of the Tudor warship 'Mary Rose' was given at the school by a member of the Mary Rose Trust, and a Dr. Takanumi visited assembly one morning to recount some of his experiences as a Christian growing up in Japan. At the end of October came the exchange visit with Wuppertal - this time our party visited Germany. All this went on against a background of noise, dust (or mud if it rained) as the builders started on the work of building the new library extension and Sixth Form study area in part of the quadrangle.

In November a party went to a lecture on Leonardo da Vinci and his works, led by Mr. Sparkes. Donations for the Ethiopian Famine Appeal raised £200. The Fourth Form pursued the outdoors at Marle Hall again.

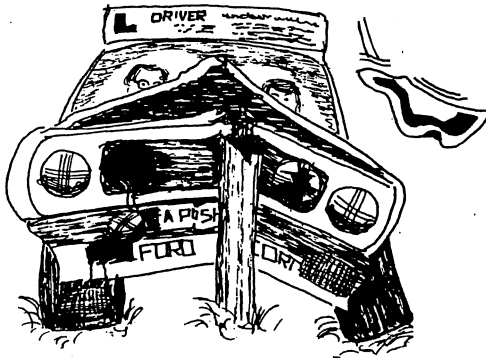
As usual, December was dominated by the approach of Christmas. Leavers Night (described in detail elsewhere) was held for the first time. The Senior Choir visited the Greville High School (now known as Alcester High School) to join with other schools in singing carols, and our annual Carol Service in St. Nicholas's Church was held once again.

In the final week of term the Junior Party, organised with admirable efficiency by the Upper Sixth, took place as usual on Non-Uniform Day; the proceeds of which were, again as usual, devoted to our traditional charity, Barnardo's. About this time Mr. Sparkes did a roaring trade in calendars which were splendidly illustrated with line drawings of local scenes prepared by members of the Sixth Form Art group. No less than 500 were sold at £1 a time - our first venture into this sort of enterprise.

The term ended in good humour with the pantomime performed on the final afternoon by members of the Sixth Form, with a script written by Christos Christou.

During the Christmas holiday, Mr. Micklethwaite took a party to the ski slopes in Italy again.

Ingrid Elliott





ALCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## THE RECORD

No. 151

Autumn 1985

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Karon Woodward.

# A TRIP TO THE TATE

On Tuesday 11th December, several members of the fifth and sixth form, all taking Art at 'O' or 'A' level, went on a trip to the Tate Art Gallery in London with Mr. Sparkes and Mr. Green.

Our bleary-eyed party set off for London from Evesham railway station early in the morning in high spirits (well as high as could be expected for this time of the morning) with not even the fog deterring us, after all we were missing school lessons! Most of our party spent the train journey eating and drinking their way through British Rail catering delicacies (and regretting it on the way home). On reaching Paddington, Mr. Sparkes led us on what can only be described as a mystery tour on the London Underground; it was a mystery to Mr. Sparkes as to where we were going.

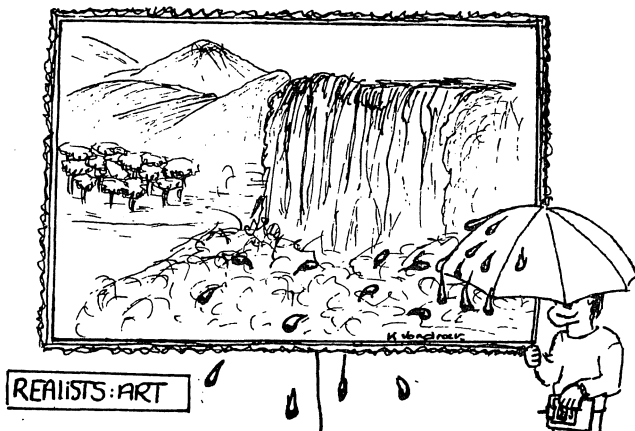
After a brisk short walk from the tube station, we arrived at the Tate, famous for its British and Modern Art collections. On entering the gallery we were all impressed by the size and scale of the building; some of our party were even more impressed by the revolving door at the entrance. We all had a general look round before viewing a special exhibition of the work of George Stubbs, the famous eighteenth-century animal painter.

After viewing the Stubbs exhibition, we stopped to have lunch in the area reserved for the eating of sandwiches, which resembled a prison, being deep underground. No wonder that some of us seemed at home.

The afternoon was taken up by looking around the modern section of the gallery. Mr. Sparkes was able to demonstrate his wide knowledge of Art by describing how Jazz music, among other things, could help to show what the artists were trying to illustrate in their pictures and sculptures. This section of the gallery was the most interesting, if not the most confusing. The last hour of the visit was taken up with the buying of souvenirs, and as we started on the journey home, most of our party started to doze off, probably thinking of sleeping and school the next day, and all the work that would need to be copied up.

We would all like to thank Mr. Sparkes, and Mr. and Mrs. Green for organising and supervising the trip and enlightening some of us would-be Picassos about real artistic talent.

Gary Phillips





# THE PANTOMIME

Towards the middle of the Autumn Term of 1984 the Sixth Form Council resolved that a pantomime should be staged as part of the end of term jollifications and so, naturally, the job was passed on to the Lower Sixth.

Weeks flew by without any advance on the panto front. Then the library was hijacked for a meeting of the Lower Sixth, and budding playwrights from the four corners of the common room were summoned. This group of 'drunken rioters' as Chaucer would have it, produced a script of dubious content and nature, compiled on many scraps of paper before being released to the inhabitants of the common room for them to criticise. After this censorship it came back with just about enough material to fill a postcard.

Panic! No script! Rescue came in the form of Chris Christou who undertook the responsibility of writing a subtle, humorous, well-balanced script. He must have sweated blood writing it as the result was pure genius; better than that it passed the censorship of those in power and so the process of staging a pantomime began in earnest.

Casting was easy; the one who shouted loudest got the job. Sound effects? The sound track was compiled the night before the show and integrated into the script just before the performance started. Director? Richard McCarthy was voted in; we showed that his show of reluctance was only a bluff by twisting his arm, gently, until he accepted. Costumes were either scrounged from School's props cupboard, or self made. Slick Hemingway, sporting one of his own creations in cardboard, showed us what costumery was all about. So the rehearsals started, a mere week before the performance. They were chaotic.

Along the way it was decided that there should be an interval between acts as in all worthy productions. Audience participation being rather absent in the script so far it was decided that the interval would be a good opportunity for some ... now what could we do? Flash of inspiration!

'Sid and Bomber keep ferrets don't they?'

'Yea .....so what?'

'Well couldn't they shove 'em down their trousers like them yokels?'

'He he.....snigger, snigger'.

The actual performance went off amazingly well. It produced such gems as Chubblox (Kate Newey) getting caught in the Great Smartie Swindle, an attempt to define a door, and the lustful desires of Sweaty Betty and Hairy Mary (in the persons of Marcus Carter and Philip Teasdale).

The second half brought the fabled 1st XV into the limelight in the guise of dancing girls to perform what might have been an erotic episode had not the meddling Rev. Upya Mota appeared on the scene with Sergeant Porno and Inspector Corner, of the yard. The show was brought to a conclusion by the grand finale - another well prepared oddity.

This year's show was said to be the best in a long time. I think that everyone involved would like to thank Chris for writing an excellent script as we all got a great deal of enjoyment out of performing it.

Liam Hurley

## THE FERRET

Since the Sixth Form pantomime at the end of the Christmas term, an interest has been shown in ferrets, five of which had leading roles in the show, so for the benefit of those people who are either misinformed, or know very little about these charming creatures, here is a general insight into their nature and history.

The ferret is basically a domesticated polecat introduced by the Romans for pest control. The male of the species is called a hob and the female a jill; the young, usually born in litters of between five and fifteen are called kits. The colour of ferrets varies tremendously from a pure white albino to a dark fitcher (a ferret with dark markings on its legs, shoulders and neck, and around its eyes).

The ferret's fine set of teeth are adapted to deal with its all meat diet, and not the bread and milk sop commonly fed to it.

And now on to their reputation. Almost every time I produce my ferrets some fool asks me 'Do you put them down your trousers?'. This strange and meaningless act of bravado, which has tested the nerve of many people and the patience of many ferrets, appears to be the sum total of the average person's knowledge of a very useful and well behaved animal. The family Mustelidae, to which the ferret belongs, also has as members the otter, stoat, badger and weasel - all animals which are given a great deal of respect, whereas the poor maligned ferret finds itself the butt of light entertainers' jokes.

This bad reputation is due, I believe, to the owners of the animals more than to the animals themselves. It is these village ruffians who provoke the reaction that ferrets are evil, loathsome, blood-thirsty and always used for poaching - none of which is true. Nowadays fieldsport enthusiasts appreciate the ferret's needs and character much more, and hence, being well treated they respond by being gentle and extremely loyal creatures.

Almost all ferrets are owned for their working ability, although there is an increasing tendency for them to be bought as pets. There are basically two creatures which are hunted with ferrets, the rabbit and the rat. The holes of the rabbit warren are either covered with purse nets (nets with a drawstring at the mouth) or guarded by someone with a gun or hunting dogs. The ferret is then entered into one of the holes and before long the rabbits begin to evacuate their now hostile homes, if caught in the nets their necks are broken swiftly and humanely. With rats, the best way of catching them is with a good pack of hard terriers which will make short work of the fleeing rodents. Rabbiting with ferrets is a most effective method of control, since perhaps ninety per cent of the rabbits on a given farm can be caught each year, leaving a residual population to provide good sport for next year and yet protecting the farmer's crops from the marauding bunnies.

Perhaps after reading this you will all give these charming creatures the respect that they deserve.

S. Sidaway

## SPRING TERM

The Spring Term started as every year with the mock 'O' and 'A' levels but after this quiet start, things soon took off and the term ended with the highly successful Rag Week.

This term saw a number of excursions to places near and far. Mr. Shearn and Miss Belton took the Lower Sixth Geographers to the Cader Idris region of Wales for a long weekend of field studies. During the Easter holiday Mrs. Albon and Mr. Simpson took a group to Malham in Yorkshire to study the Geology of the region. Meanwhile, somewhat further afield, Mrs. Matthews took a party of pupils to Greece, where she said her final goodbye before her departure to the Lake District where she is now running a guesthouse.

Sarah Cox

## GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP — SPRING 1985

The day finally arrived. Oh dear! Somehow I had managed to use up my extensive catalogue of excuses for not going and now there was no turning back. All nine participants (Karl Vondrak had managed to avoid going) assembled in front of the School, early on a Friday afternoon at the end of the Spring Term and awaited the arrival of our seniors. Capt. Simpson came over to the minibus and took the helm. Andy Williams soon put it back and we were away. But only as far as Astwood Bank, where we picked up Mrs. Albon and her irrepressible son, Steve.

At last we headed off for Yorkshire, still pondering over whether the Albons were attempting to bring the whole contents of their house with them on the trip. Now old Steve Albon did us proud on the way up North. He had managed to bring with him possibly, no, definitely the worst cassette we had ever heard. Yes a whole hour of pure, unspoilt, BANJO MUSIC. It was amusing at first but the laughter soon turned to tears and headache tablets. The background of banjo music, coupled with my witnessing a car roll over on the motorway, made for a relatively eventful journey.

Anyway we reached Yorkshire and the 'metropolis' of Malham early on Friday evening and headed for the Youth Hostel where we were to stay. After a meal, the rest of the evening was spent as a group discussing our proposed trips for the next few days, whilst Graham Farmer and myself were desperately working out how to get home before the next day.

Saturday came and after breakfast we set out for a hike which included visiting such geologically interesting features as Gordale Scar, Malham Tarn and the 'impressive' Malham Cove, which overshadows the hamlet of Malham itself. Now I could go on for pages describing our daily hikes, but as we wandered over the hills, so did my mind ... wander, that is. So for a more detailed account see Phil Teasdale your home geologist.

On Sunday after a short minibus trip we walked on to visit the world-famous Norber erratics. These are large lumps of rock perched on a narrow limestone base - or so they tell me. (the Editors thought it advisable at this juncture to point out that the rocks had been transported to their present location by ice movements long ago). After some unconformities we marched on to Crummock Dale to visit a syncline. Late in the afternoon we arrived at the famous pot hole of Gaping Gill. This immense hole is said to be large enough to fit St. Paul's Cathedral into the bottom of it, and I must admit that at one point Robert Knight came fairly close to finding out whether it was down there or not.

Celebrating the last full day of the field trip we hit the hamlet that night. After a few hours and a similar number of soft drinks James Butterworth hit the hamlet floor and yes, Steve Albon came up trumps once again with his incredibly bad Clint Eastwood impressions.

Monday was the first day of April and the last day of our trip. April Fool's day? Well we decided after a weekend like this that we were the fools to have taken Geology in the first place. We spent the morning on a fairly pleasant walk along the Ingleton Waterfalls and came across some especially impressive falls known as Thornton Force. After lunch we climbed back into the minibus, once again with Capt. Simpson, who had somehow managed not to smile once during the whole weekend despite our persistent injections of subtle humour. *(The Editors feel that both Mr. Simpson and Mrs. Albon deserve your sympathy).*

It was all quiet on the way home. Steve Albon fell asleep and relief was evident on many a face. We would all like to thank Mrs. Albon for organising it all, Stirling Simpson for his impeccable job at the wheel, and to give our special thanks to Steve Albon for his guest appearance and hideous banjo cassette! Thank you!

Robin Holland

*(The Editors must point out that Mr. Holland's musical opinions are entirely his own, and in no way represent the musical tastes of the School as a whole or Staff, Headmaster or Governors in particular, some or all of whom may well be fond of this engaging instrument, and be able to give a rendition of 'Foggy Mountain Break-down' at the drop of a hat).*

## YOU SAID IT !

"Owls' eyes look directly forwards and have little power of movement, so to compensate for this they can move their necks through  $180^{\circ}\text{C}$ " (from a 1st form Biology essay).

"Resolution between two actors will not be possible at a distance of 20km if they are in intimate contact" (from a 6th form Physics answer).

"When faced with inexplicable results like these I usually take refuge in a dirty test tube" (C.J.J. addressing the Upper 6th chemists).

"I have secreted two bottles of orange squash in the laboratory" (M.E.A. to Upper 6th Chemists doing food science).

"With no regard for personal safety, suck in dangerous gases, run to window and exhale violently, whilst compatriots observe reaction from a safe distance" (6th form answer to exam question asking how the dangers associated with gases released by a reaction is to be avoided if no fume cupboard is available).

"Surely the whole point is ..... well I am not sure it is the whole point but ....." (C.M.H. discussing 'A' level essay question in Physics).

## NOAH – THE INSIDE STORY

The first night had come! Finally after several months of rehearsals we had to perform to our first proper audience!

The auditions had been held several months earlier and now most of us wished that we had not volunteered so ambitiously now the actual performance was here.

This year, the production had a mildly biblical theme - 'Noah' by Andre' Obey and, in addition, the school choir, split up the scenes with 'Captain Noah and his Amazing Zoo' by Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz. On the musical side 'God' was played by Stephen Hemingway and 'Noah' was Mark Hancox.

The production was staged for three nights from 20th March and was supported by audiences which grew larger for each successive performance. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated, even though we were not at all confident with our lines in some parts.

Kevin Brannan, transformed into a fifty-year old with the aid of grey hairspray and sideburns, played the demanding title role with understanding and conviction, and was well-supported by Jason Parker (Ham), Adam Mansell (Shem), Richard Masterson (Japheth), Kathryn Waters (Naomi), Philippa Holloway (Sella), Caroline Stern (Ada) and, of course, the animals, who were played by Melanie Jewitt, Miranda Wade, Claire Jewitt, Sadie Gould, Gail Jones, Lisa Bayliss and Philip Reah. David Laughlin had the formidable task of playing both the bear and a 'savage man', with some quick costume changes.

The show could not have taken place without the help of many people within the School to whom we wish to extend our warmest thanks: Miss Rowberry, for organizing the props with her helpers; Mrs. Davis for our costumes; Mrs. Matthews for helping with the business side of things and the programme sales; the backstage lighting and sound effects crew who, with the help of Mr. Maund, constructed the Ark; Mr. Sparkes and his team who painted the set and made the splendid animal heads, and Mr. Brinson who made the musical side of the production possible.

We could not have coped without our prompt, Vicki McCarthy, who was needed less and less as we progressed through the rehearsals.

Finally we must thank Miss Bywater and Mr. Green, for without their help and direction, none of it would have taken place.

Karon Woodward



## RAG WEEK ' 85

Rag Week began with a bang as Miss Rowberry was abducted from assembly by members of the Sixth Form fulfilling life-long ambitions and dressing up in full SAS gear. Armed with water pistols and silly string they burst into the hall and Miss Rowberry was hurried into the escape car lying in wait. Unfortunately a lorry was blocking the planned exit and so their escape was not as professional as they would have liked. A ransom was demanded for Miss Rowberry's return.

Throughout the week, Sixth Formers braved the elements whilst the rest of the School soaked them with buckets of water close to freezing point. Guest appearances at this spectacle were made by Mr. Shearn, wisely clad in a wetsuit, and Mr. Micklethwaite, armed with an umbrella. Yet another long running success was the 'Pop Quiz' which Andrew Butler, Philip Teasdale and Andrew Barney organised during the lunch breaks during the week, finishing with the final in the hall on Friday.

Also on Friday there took place the annual three-legged fancy-dress football match. The Upper Sixth defeated the Lower Sixth. This was partly due to foul play on their part and partly due to the fact that a member of the Upper Sixth was the only referee.

At lunchtime on Friday the entire Sixth Form displayed its competence at ballet by bursting into the dining room, prancing about and leaping on the tables in a very acrobatic style, although the accompaniment was not quite 'Swan Lake'. If only a talent scout had been there most of them would surely have been recruited for the next series of 'Fame'.

On the Friday evening came the Rag Ball at Alcester Town Hall brilliantly organised by Jon Guest and Richard McCarthy and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Finally, on Sunday morning 'The Great Push' from Alcester to Stratford was due to begin at 9.00 a.m. As at least half of those taking part had forgotten to put their clocks forward it did not in fact start until 10.00 a.m. The theme was 'Toga' which meant that we all froze whilst walking 8 miles in our mothers' best sheets. Wary of the delicate construction of hospital beds after last year's event (when the Upper Sixth had to make half of their journey on three wheels) we decided to go at a steady pace. As ill luck would have it, we caught one wheel in a drain as we turned out of the lane and had to do the whole journey on three wheels. Eventually we reached Stratford and performed a short excerpt from 'The Merchant of Venice' in the High Street. After walking the streets of Stratford for another hour we returned our disabled bed to the hospital. Our thanks must go to Mr. Shearn and Jim Powell for patiently escorting us in their cars.

Obviously Rag Week was a great success since £510 was raised for various charities.

Kate Newey



## SUMMER TERM

The first notable event in the Summer Term was, strangely enough, the Spring Fair in May which raised a considerable sum of money for the Parents' Association. Lower Sixth Biologists visited Marle Hall for an extremely hard-working field week and Mr. Shearn and Miss Belton took a group of those aspiring to the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award to North West Scotland on expedition. Sponsored maths tests were organised by Mr. Balaam and raised several hundred pounds for the Multiple Sclerosis charity. Our pupils went to France on an exchange visit.

June was fairly uneventful in terms of extra-curricula activities, as it is always dominated by the examinations. However, on July 4th most of the School was taken on outings (strictly of an educational nature) to aid its recovery from the shock of the recent exam results. Sports Day took place on July 10th; Spencer won yet again. Cups, trophies and prizes for this event and other award winning achievements were given at Presentation Assembly, held in the School Hall on the 18th. Here ended the School Year.

Ingrid Elliott

## THE COIGACH EXPEDITION.

The six hundred mile journey to the wilderness of the lands beyond Ullapool in North-West Scotland was well worth the long and tiring effort. The party camped close to a lovely bay with some of the most exciting mountains in the British Isles as a backdrop. Wild Gaelic-Norse names give the mountains an added Tolkienesque flavour: Stac Pollaidh, Suilven, Ben More Coigach, Quinag, Cul Mor and Cul Beag. The steepness and abruptness of the peaks as they rise like monstrous ships from a heaving sea create a unique landscape and we were favoured with exceptional weather in which to walk over it. From the tops we could, within the space of a few minutes be favoured with a glimpse of the Outer Hebrides, forty miles away, then be engulfed in a blasting snow storm.

An expedition to the interior gave the group the task of camping without staff supervision overnight, having carried their gear into the heart of the region, pitching their tents where only the Red Deer might disturb their sleep.

On their return to base-camp some braved the sea - rather cool for swimming at a temperature less than 12°C, while others rested, cooked or played with the frisbee. We would all rather like to be there now I suspect.

All those who took part were from the Lower Sixth:

Nicholas Wootton-Jones, Andrew Thomson, Andrew Barney, Sarah Cox, Thea Hughes, Tracey McCalman, Ingrid Elliott, Helen Wright.

A.W.S.



*Last year in 'The Record' we reported that Michael Humphrey had been awarded the title of 'Warwickshire Cyclist of the Year'. This year he went on to the national contest and became 'National Cyclist of the Year', and so went on to the international contest in Portugal. Here is his account of the event.*

## THE INTERNATIONAL SAFE MOPED – RIDER AND SAFE – CYCLING COMPETITION

On 18th May David Rose and I met at Lighthorne Heath, near Warwick, ready for the International Safe Moped-Rider and Safe Cycling Competition. The competition was open to the whole world, but many countries could not afford to send their competitors to Portugal, so only European and North African countries had entered.

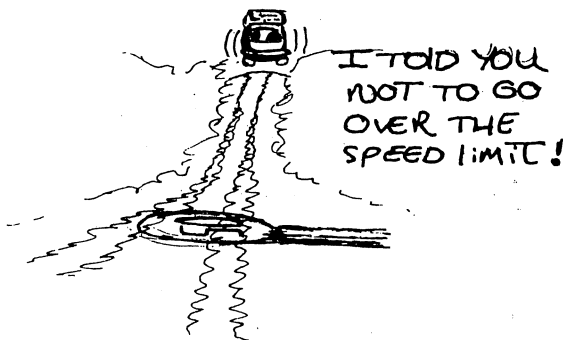
Both David and I had a week off school and he was to miss the second part of his English 'O' level, which he took at a later date. At mid-day we met Maurice Haylock and Robert Illes, the other members of the British team, and the team managers. We were joined later by officials of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). We had a smooth flight to Lisbon on the hottest day of the week.

We started with the theory test on Wednesday 22nd of May, followed by a coach journey from Cruz Quebrada (where we were staying) to Lisbon Zoo where the practical tests were to take place. There was a cross-country course for moped riders and a road route for cyclists; the moped riders started on the cross-country event and did the road route after the cyclists. On the road route there were ten checkpoints which you had to ride past in five minutes, all the time being marked by the judges - all Portuguese policemen. The riders from the United Kingdom and Eire went round the road route after everybody else since we rode on the left instead of the right. Then we had dinner - beef and chips that tasted of olive oil and tomatoes.

After this came the final event - the obstacle course. This included weaving between cones, riding over a see-saw and several other things, half of which were not in the international rules.

The final result was that Portugal came first and second in the moped competition and first and eighth in the cycling section. I came 24th in the cycling competition and Robert came 27th. In the moped section Maurice was 24th and David Rose came 28th. The team positions were both 13th out of 19 countries.

Michael Humphrey



## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Instead of detailed reports on the various clubs and societies this year we thought that it might be a good idea to give a general survey of the range of these bodies which flourish in the school in 1985.

The Debating Society, the Canoe Club, the Dungeons and Dragons Club, the Christian Union, the Athletics Club, the Badminton Club, the Cross-Country Club, the Art Club, and the Craftwork Club were all alive and kicking in 1985. We have heard nothing of some old favourites of late; perhaps there will be some newcomers next year.

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARDS

Training for the awards made under the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme started for the first time in the school in September 1984 and we now have a small but active unit to which quite a number of new members will be added at both Bronze and Gold levels in September 1985.

During the year a variety of activities has been arranged in connection with the scheme. After considerable training in skills such as first aid, map and compass work, and camp cookery, practice expeditions were arranged in the north-west Highlands of Scotland for the group aiming for the Gold Award, and locally for those training for the Bronze Award.

The Bronze Award group also attended a course given by the Fire Service in which they learned about fire prevention and control. They all thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially the tour of the fire station and the chance to climb on a fire engine.

Individuals have undertaken a variety of forms of service to the community, including life-saving duty, running a school basketball club, helping to clear a canal and helping to run youth groups. The skills section has created a wealth of interest in pursuits such as soft-toy making, cake decoration, working with stained glass, agriculture, gardening, photography and many others.

Progress and achievement in the physical recreation section has also promoted interest in a wide range of activities including fencing, squash, tennis and horse-riding as well as several different team sports.

Although a number of the original group have had to discontinue their involvement due to other pressures, those who have persevered have gained tremendous enjoyment and benefit from all the activities which they may otherwise have missed. We look forward to the enthusiastic support of new members in future years.

J.M.L.

## BADMINTON CLUB

During the winter term a group of budding badminton players went down to the sports hall in Alcester every Monday evening for 'professional' badminton coaching and after weeks of practice we finally mastered the sport. This showed when we played in a match against St. Benedict's High School and won!

Our thanks must go to Mr. Mickethwaite and Mr. Simpson for all the Monday evenings they have given up.

Gina Ravenhall and Phillipa Wood

## VISITING THE ELDERLY

This division of Liberal Studies is affectionately known as 'Granny Bashing' by the small group of 6th Formers who visit Jubilee Court, the sheltered housing scheme in Alcester, during periods 4 and 5 on Thursdays.

After taking some of the residents into dinner, we go to visit some of the old people. Mrs. Charles is a popular patient because she always provides us with a cup of coffee and as many biscuits as we can manage as well as many of her memories from the 'good old days'. Volunteer workers recently raised money for a snooker table which we often test to make sure that it is safe for the residents to use!

The old people are always pleased to see a young face about the place and like to chat to you. Jubilee Court is a very nice place, each person (or couple) has their own flat with a communal dining room, library and laundry room. The residents are very well looked after, especially by the warder who contacts everyone at least twice each day by intercom.

Visiting the elderly is well worth doing if you have the chance because they are very appreciative and after all we are all going to be old one day!

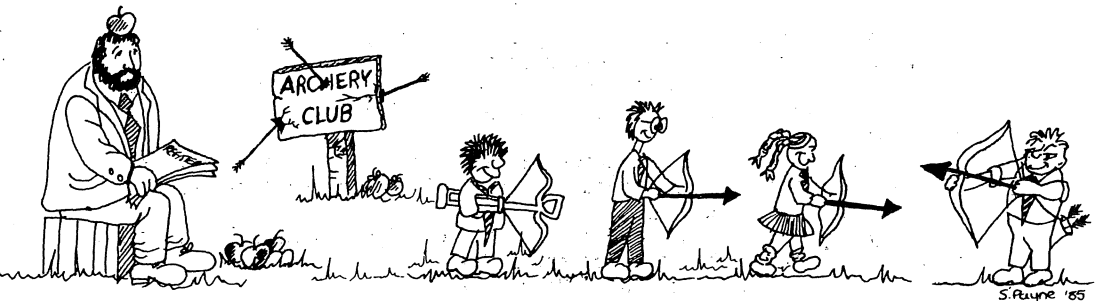
Andrew Butler

## BARNARDO'S 1985

The past year has seen another pleasing amount of money raised for Barnardo's - a total of £332.61. Most of the money we raise comes from our loyal band of box-holders - the box openings in April produced an amazing £248 and the Fines Box alone was found to contain just over £10.

I was absent from School in December so we have not had the usual Christmas Tree collection to boost the total, but the Non-Uniform Day raised £68 and Andrew Hedges and Andrew Marshall raised nearly £10 by carol singing. A donation of £6 from the Badminton Club and £2 from Form 1's 'Samson' project helped to bring our yearly total to a very creditable figure and I am sure our 30 new box-holders will bring more badly needed help for our charity.

K.G.M.



## GAMES

### RUGBY

The 1st XV had a very successful season under the captaincy of David Holloway, playing 17 matches and winning 13 of them including the defeats of North Bromsgrove (45-4) and Solihull 6th Form College (19-12). Matthew Farmer and Paul Brice were selected for Warwickshire.

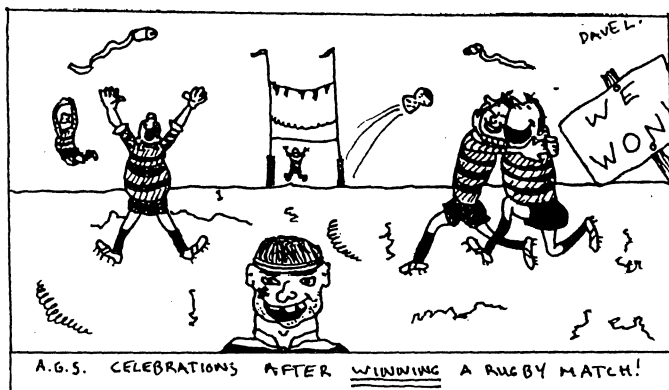
The Under 15 XV, with Adam Mansell as Captain, played 8 matches and won 3 of them, defeating among others South Bromsgrove (24-10). Adam Mansell, Robert Russell and Stephen Mitchell were selected for the Mid-Warwickshire squad.

Less successful were the Under 14 XV who won only 1 of their 8 matches but the victory was an 18-0 defeat of Stratford High School. Neil Morland, this season's captain, was picked for the Mid-Warwickshire squad.

The Under 13 XV had a 12-6 defeat of Stratford High School as their single victory from 2 matches played. Martin Sergeant was the captain.

Rugby colours were awarded to Philip Teasdale, Liam Hurley, Paul Holl, Andrew Thomson and Nicholas Wootton-Jones.

Matthew Farmer was selected to play for the West Midlands, the highest standard ever reached by a member of the School.



### SOCCER

The highlight of the 1st XI season was a 10-2 victory over Evesham College. The team played 4 matches in all and won 2 of them. David Laughlin captained the side throughout the season.

The Under 16 XI, with Paul Bradley as captain, played only 2 matches. Both Paul and Toby Lenehan were selected to play for South Warwickshire.

The Under 14 XI won 3 of the six matches played. Simon Hollands was the captain. Simon, Matthew Hunter and John Ratcliffe were selected for South Warwickshire.

Paul Winsper captained the Under 13 XI which won 3 of the 5 matches played; 1 was drawn. Stephen Godsall, Thomas Stern and Paul Winsper were picked for South Warwickshire.

Finally the Under 12 XI A team beat Studley High School 6-1, but the B side were defeated by the same opponents 0-1.

Soccer colours were awarded to Marcus Carter.

## TENNIS

Our Under 15 team, with Toby Lenehan as Captain, played three matches; one was a draw and we won the other two, defeating Stratford High School and Studley High School.

The Under 13 team (Thomas Stern, Captain) played four matches and won one of them, defeating Studley High School.

In the first year boys' tennis tournament William Hunter beat Walter Drummond-Murray; the tournament was skilfully organized by Ian Lauer and Nick Firth. In the senior boys' contest Howard Lewis-Jones defeated Anthony Bonsen.

## SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CROSS-COUNTRY LEAGUE

Our teams distinguished themselves yet again. The Minor Boys came 4th, as did the Minor Girls. Our two Junior Boys teams came 2nd and 3rd, and the Junior/Intermediate Girls came 2nd. The Intermediate Boys came 2nd also.

As far as individual placings were concerned, W. Hunter was 3rd in the Minor Boys, S. Lawley came 3rd in the Minor Girls, T. Stern was 3rd in the Junior Boys, D. Clarke came 2nd in the Intermediate/Junior Girls section, and A. Hedges was 4th in the Intermediate Boys division.

Richard McCarthy, Andrew Thomson, Andrew Barney and Debbie Clark were all selected to represent Warwickshire at Cross-Country and Richard was appointed Captain of the team.

## INTER-HOUSE CROSS-COUNTRY

In the Junior Boys section Wells came 1st, Newport 2nd and Spencer 3rd, with T. Stern 1st, M. Hunter 2nd and W. Hunter 3rd in the individual results.

Newport came 1st in the Senior Boys section with Wells 2nd and Spencer 3rd. In individual placings, R. McCarthy was 1st, A. Thomson 2nd and J. Guest 3rd.

There was again a strong entry from the girls. Spencer came 1st in the Senior section, followed by Newport, then Wells. Gina Ravenhall was placed 1st with Fiona Apsley 2nd and Rachel Savage 3rd. In the Junior section Spencer was 1st, Wells 2nd and Newport 3rd. Samantha Lawley was 1st, Rachel Marsh 2nd, and Alison Bradley 3rd.

## CRICKET

Our fixture list was much curtailed this year, a consequence of the disturbances in the world of education which have plagued the summer.

The 1st XI (Nick Wootton-Jones, Captain) played three matches. They defeated Prince Henry's and the Abbey High School but were beaten by the staff team; the latter scored 94 against the 1st XI score of 75.

The Under 15 team played three matches and won two of them, defeating Kenilworth and St. Benedict's. Robert Russell was Captain. The Under 13 side played two matches, defeating Princethorpe and the Under 12 team played only one. Martin Ashfield captained the Under 13 XI and Nicholas Blundell led the Under 12 side.

Martin Ashfield was selected for the Warwickshire Under 13 side and Jason Parker and Toby Lenehan were selected for the Mid-Warwickshire team.

Colours were awarded to Toby Lenehan, Jason Parker and Robert Russell.

Many of the girls' summer fixtures were cancelled as a result of the various disturbances in the educational world which have been reported in the Press.

#### ROUNDERS

The Under 15 team played three matches and won one, the Under 14 played two and won one, the Under 13 played two and the Under 12 side played three, winning one and drawing one.

#### TENNIS

An Under 15 IV and an Under 13 IV were entered in a national tournament sponsored by the Midland Bank and played in a South Warwickshire League against teams from Shuttery, Shipston, Studley and Stratford High School. The Under 15 team finished second in the league and the Under 13 squad - Zoe Ford, Lisa Larnar, Louise Hollands and Claire Jewitt emerged as winners. They now go forward to the next round of the competition to play against a team from the County of Hereford and Worcester.

Susan Lindsay was selected as a member of the Warwickshire Under 15 squad. Zoe Ford again represented the West Midlands and is hoping to be selected for the National Championship later this year.

For the first time an internal ladder (sponsored by the Nestle organisation) was arranged for the senior school during the Summer Term. David Laughlin was the winner and Marcus Carter came second.

In the internal tennis tournament the singles cup was won by Zoe Ford who beat Xanthe Ryle 6-1, 6-2. Gina Ravenhall and Hayley Monks won the senior doubles title by their victory over Xanthe Ryle and Wendy Quinney, 3-6, 6-3, 6-0. In the junior singles Zoë Ford beat Debbie Clark 6-1, and the junior doubles title was won by Zoë Ford and Lisa Larnar who beat Liz Cox and Liz Wood 6-0.

#### GYMNASTICS

Jayne Lidsey attended the National Gymnastics Championships and finished second in her age group for her grade.

#### HOCKEY

Many matches had to be cancelled this season owing to poor weather conditions, but of those which took place, the 1st XI played 5 and won 2, the Under 15 XI played 2 and won 1, the Under 14 XI played 7 and won 3 and the Under 13 XI played 3 and won 2.

Colours were awarded to Blanche Surman, Nicola Spearing, Caroline Cuffe, Vicky McCarthy and Tracey Mitchell, and for the second time to Fiona Apsley and Karen Harman.

#### FENCING

The team played only two matches, against King's School, Worcester and St. Augustine's, Redditch. We were defeated, honorably, in both cases.

## ATHLETICS

The following were selected for South Warwickshire:

Howard Lewis-Jones (200m); Nick Wootton-Jones (400m); Liam Hurley (400m) Richard McCarthy (800m); Andrew Thomson (800m); Andrew Hedges, Andrew Marshall, Phillipa Wood, Hayley Tyrer (all for the race walk); Alex Austin (200m); Ian Selby (Javelin); Simon Hollands (1500m); Martin Sergeant (400m); Toby Lenehan (1500m); Rae Perry (Triple Jump); Stuart Godsall (800m and Discus); Adam Mansell (Shot).

In the South Warwickshire sports our first year boys team was placed 1st, the second year boys were equal 1st with Stratford High School; the third year boys also equal 1st with the same school and the fourth year boys came 3rd. Our first year girls came 2nd, the second year girls came 1st and the 3rd year girls came 4th. Overall the AGS boys came equal 1st (with Stratford High School) and the girls came 1st. When the boys' results were combined with the girls' results, AGS came 1st!

The following were selected to represent Warwickshire as a result of the County Athletics:

Martin Sergeant (400m); Andrew Hedges, Andrew Marshall and Hayley Tyrer (race walk).

## THE HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

The result this year was a dead heat between Spencer and Wells, both scoring 239 points. A tie has been recorded only once before in the school's history!



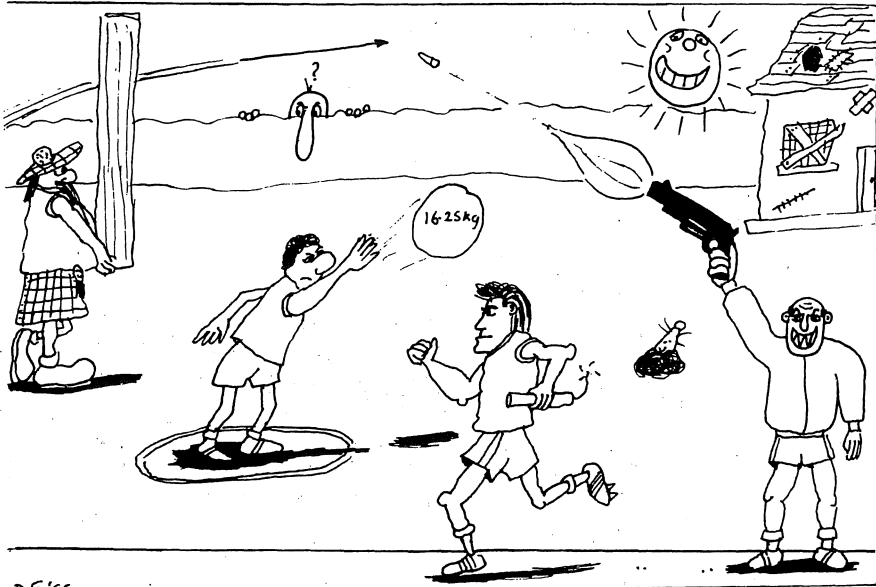


# SPORTS DAY 1985

Sports Day was held on Wednesday 10th July this year, and was a very relaxed event because we were not under pressure to declare a result at the end; under the new arrangements trophies were to be awarded at the presentation assembly in the last week of term. A summary of the results is given below. An asterisk denotes the establishment of a new record.

## JUNIOR GIRLS (1st and 2nd forms)

1st year 100m	L.Macdonald(S); J.Lidsey(N); L.Cooke(W)
2nd year 100m	S.Gould(S); J.Wright(N); L.Hollands(W)
200m	B.Holt(S); L.Hollands(W); Z.Ford(S)
800m	B.Holt(S)*; G.Jones(N); S.Lawley(S)
High Jump	S.Gould(S); B.Holt(S); J.Wright(N)
Long Jump	S.Gould(S); L.Miller(N), E.Talbot (tie); M.Wellavize
Discus	L.Stone(N); M.Jewitt(W); N.Griffin(W)
Javelin	C.Jewitt(W); E.Talbot(N); B.Lewis(W)
Relay, 4 x 100m	A teams : Spencer, Wells, Newport
	B teams : Newport, Spencer, Wells



## SENIOR GIRLS (5th and 6th forms)

100m	L.Buffery(W); H.Wright(W); K.Lewis(S)
200m	L.Buffery(W); K.Woodward(S); T.Mitchell(W)
High Jump	K.Woodward(S); T.Mitchell(W); L.Ross(N)
Long Jump	S.Galbraith(W); L.Buffery(W); L.Ross(N)
Discus	K.Newey(S); S.Cox(W); S.Smith(S)
Relay, 4 x 100m	Wells, Spencer, Newport

#### INTERMEDIATE GIRLS (3rd and 4th forms)

3rd year 100m H. Mumford(N); S.Walker(S); R.Wade(W)  
4th year 100m J.Shelton(S); R.Holden(N); P.Dorrington(S)  
200m H.Mumford(N); P.Dorrington(S); A.Bradley(S)  
800m R.Wade(W); P.Wood(S); C.Payne(N)  
High Jump J.Shelton(S); F.Gilroy(S); H.Mumford(N)  
Long Jump P.Dorrington(S); H.Mumford(N); C.Beacon(N)  
Discus R.Holden(N)\*; L.Bayliss(N); T.Hack(W)  
Javelin C.Payne(N); R.Holden(N); S.Walker(S)  
Relay, 4 x 100m A teams : Spencer, Newport, Wells  
B teams : Newport, Spencer, Wells

#### JUNIOR BOYS (1st and 2nd forms)

1st year 100m P.Chambers(S); N.Blundell(N), P.Kiely (tie); S.Crossley(W)  
2nd year 100m S.Godsall(W); R.Russell(S); T.Stern(W)  
200m M.Sergeant(W)\*; R.Russell(S); M.Startin(S)  
400m M.Sergeant(W)\*; T.Stern(W); R.Harris(S)  
800m S.Godsall(W)\*; M.Poole(N); M.Startin(S)  
High Jump M.Ashfield(S); J.Ladbury(W); K.Southall(N)  
Long Jump M.Sergeant(W); R.Russell(S); T.Stern(W)  
Discus S.Godsall(W); M.Startin(S); G.O'dell(W)  
Javelin K.Southall(N); D.Blackburn(W); G.Knight(S)  
Shot R.Anderson(N); D.Blackburn(W); G.McPhail(S)  
Relay, 4 x 100m A teams : Wells, Spencer, Newport  
B teams : Spencer, Wells, Newport

#### INTERMEDIATE BOYS (3rd and 4th forms)

3rd year 100m A.Austin(N); R.Turner(S); D.Wakelam(W)  
4th year 100m R.Russell(S); N.Cole(W); D.Foster(N)  
200m R.Russell(S); A.Austin(N); S.Day(S)  
400m J.Ratcliffe(W); A.Mansell(S); A.Kerr(W)  
800m T.Lenehan(N); S.Hollands(W); C.Holt(S)  
1500m T.Lenehan(N); S.Hollands(W); M.Sreeves(W)  
High Jump R.Turner(S); A.Mansell(S); S.Shelton(N)  
Long Jump R.Russell(S); N.Cole(W); S.Day(S)  
Discus J.Parker(W); I.Selby(N); S.Wilkes(S)  
Javelin I.Selby(N); S.Teasdale(N); J. Parker(W)  
Shot D.Foster(N); R.Perry(N); J.Strain(S)  
Junior/Inter 1500m Walk: I.Selby(N); C.Brazier(S); I.Revell(S)  
Relay, 4 x 100m A teams : Spencer, Wells, Newport  
B teams : Newport-Spencer tie, Wells

# SENIOR BOYS (5th and 6th forms)

100m A.Butler(S); G.Farmer(S); P.Brice(N)  
 200m L.Hurley(N); H.Lewis-Jones(N); G.Farmer(S)  
 400m H.Lewis-Jones(N); C.Cowin(S); L.Hurley(N)  
 800m R.McCarthy(S); A.Barney(S); A.Thomson(W)  
 1500m R.McCarthy(S); A.Barney(S); A.Thomson(W)  
 High Jump R.McCarthy(S); N.Wootton-Jones(S); S.Young(N)  
 Long Jump G.Farmer(S); P. Holl(N); A.Barney(S)  
 Discus M.Farmer(S); L.Hancox(W); P.Teasdale(N)  
 Javelin H.Lewis-Jones(N); S.Sidaway(S); L.Hurley(N)  
 Shot M.Farmer(S); A.Thomson(W); S.Sidaway(S)  
 Relay, 4 x 100m A teams : Spencer, Newport, Wells  
 B teams : Newport, Wells, Spencer

RELAY 6 x 200m Boys : Newport, Wells, Spencer  
 Girls : Spencer, Wells, Newport

TUG OF WAR Junior : Spencer, Wells, Newport  
 Senior : Spencer, Wells, Newport

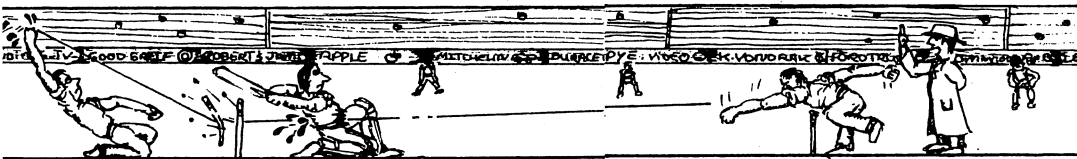
## VICTRIX LUDORUM CUP

Junior Sadie Gould and Becky Holt  
 Senior Rachel Holden, Heather Mumford and Lisa Buffery

## VICTOR LUDORUM CUP

Junior : Martin Sergeant  
 Intermediate : Robert Russell  
 Senior : Richard McCarthy

GIRLS' SPORTS CUP : Spencer  
 BOYS' SPORTS CUP : Spencer  
 SPORTS SHIELD : Spencer



Those present at assembly one morning in May were very entertained when a poem - nay an epic poem - was declaimed by the Head Boy. Such was its length that two assemblies were taken up with its telling. The audience sat enthralled, much as the telling of 'Beowulf' or the Homeric epics must have kept them spellbound in ancient times. The subject of the verse was a cricket match, but such was the length of the work that, for reasons of economy, we are unable to publish it here in full. All we are able to do is give you a mere fragment of this mighty effort in a feeble attempt to convey its true flavour.

## THE CRICKET MATCH

One Wednesday, forgetting the rain and the wet,  
The First XI played a game of cricket.  
Against the school team from Abbey High,  
We thought that we'd win without having to try.

Captain Nic Wootton-Jones and Neil Hoare  
Opened the batting and began our score.  
They struck 50 runs without any loss,  
And generally established who was boss.

Finally the bails fell without any doubt  
And one of our openers - Neil - was out.  
But then Paul D. Brice strolled up to the square,  
To punish the bowling with style and flair.

Then disaster struck and the bails once more,  
Clearly and resoundingly fell to the floor.  
Captain Nicholas was this time the culprit,  
And grinning sheepishly he left the wicket.

Next to the fray was Richard brother of Paul,  
Ready and eager to hit the cricket ball.  
For three overs the Brice brothers did just that,  
Until the ball was caught from Richard's raised bat.

*(After this the poet goes on to describe the collapse of our  
batting. We will draw a veil over this and take up the story  
as the Abbey High goes out to bat needing 101 for victory).*

We were positioned about the field by Nic  
Our Captain who is so sure, so suave, so slick,  
Before dispersing us, he gave some advice,  
This is what he said - not only once but twice!

'All except the slip' - the slip was John Holder -  
'Should walk up to the wicket with the bowler  
It will keep you all poised, ready and alert,  
'Besides, if you don't, I'll kick you and that will hurt'.

*(Russell Harrison now bowls the batsman with his first ball!)*

For the whole of that over no runs were scored,  
It seemed that Russell had our opponents floored.  
Now Toby Lenehan was bowling second,  
And against him also no runs were reckoned.  
In the third over, Russell bowled again,  
The maiden he captured but this time no men.

Now here for a moment I feel I must stop.  
To tell you that the batting was not a flop  
You may think that the batsmen were pretty poor,  
Since after three overs they still had to score,  
But Russell and Toby flung the ball so quick,  
That honestly, just watching it made me feel sick!

The play continued in this manner and form,  
Whilst our bowlers were taking the game by storm.  
The runs - they came but were far between and few,  
After ten overs they'd scored just twenty-two.

Exciting points that occurred up to then,  
Were Russell's clean bowling a couple more men,  
But now - the most exciting part of the match -  
When off Toby's last over, I took my catch.

'Well done! Well done Riccy!' all my team mates said,  
As they rushed up and patted me on the head.  
All that is except for Little John Holder -  
He could only just reach up to my shoulder.

Even Mr. Simpson thought it was clever,  
The way my hands seemed to stick to the leather.  
(To Mr. Simpson goes the team's vote of thanks,  
For umpiring the match and supporting our ranks).

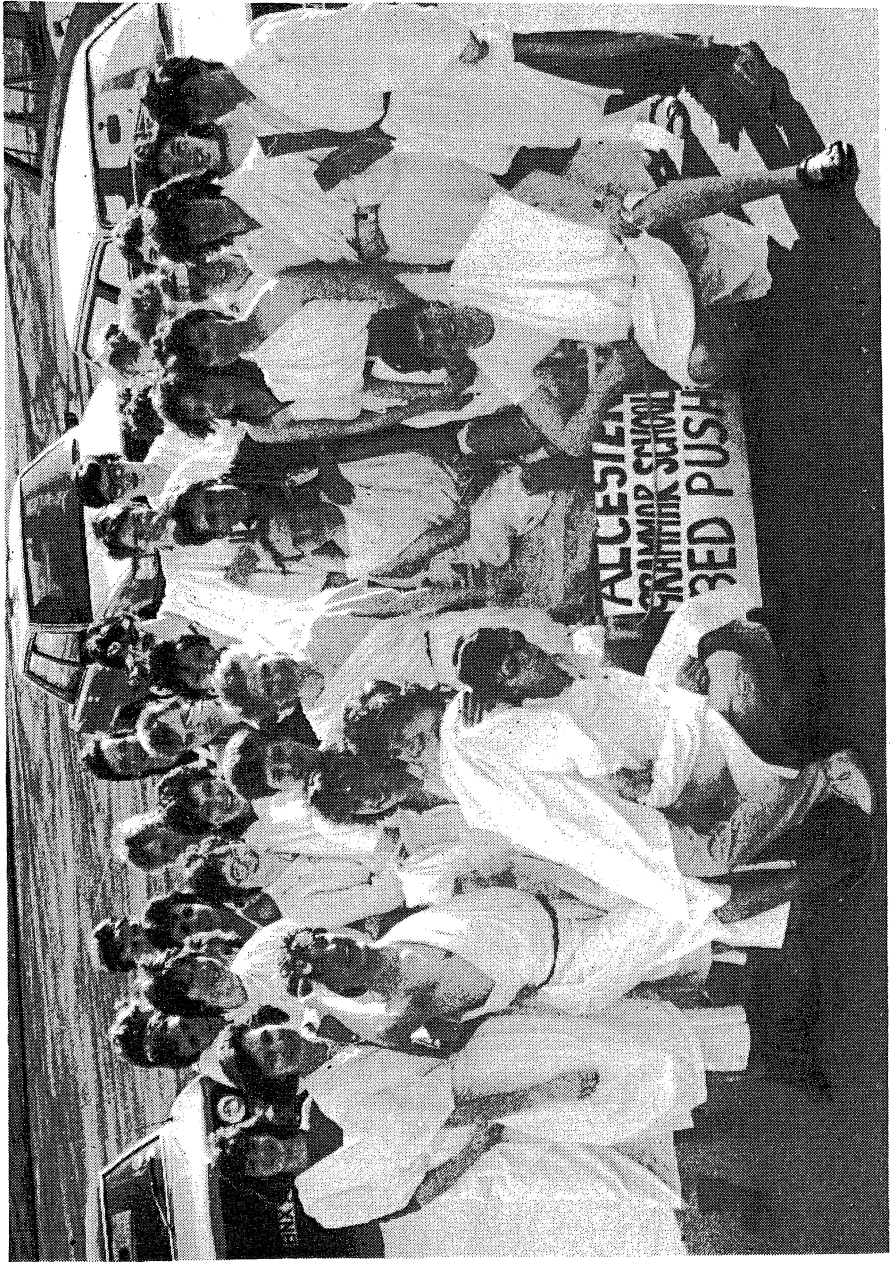
Then back to the match in hand we all turned,  
As, numbed their fourth man walked out with hung head.  
So four down and only five wickets to go,  
As Captain Nic came on to bowl to them slow.

*(Nic and John Holder take two more wickets, John bowls the next man  
in and then . . . . .)*

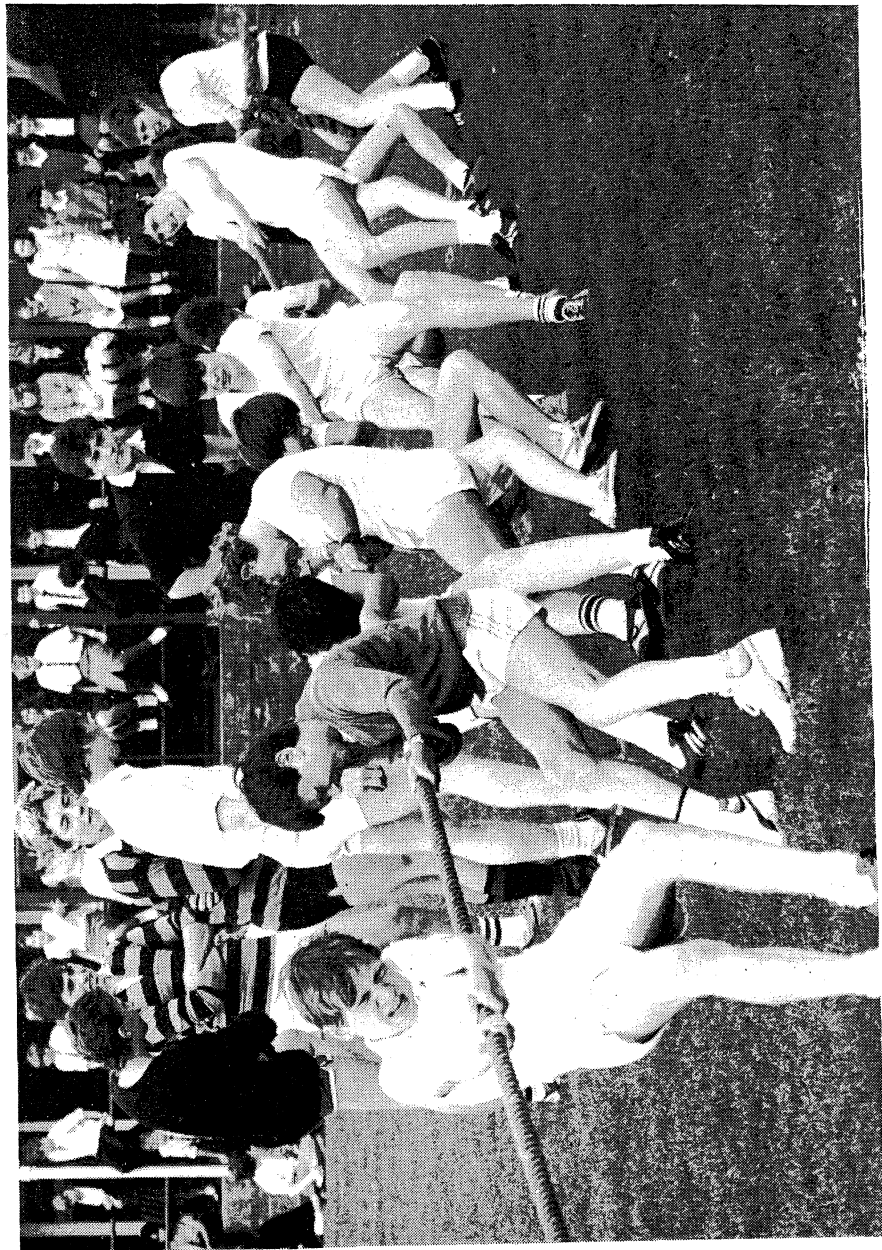
Another two overs and more runs were hit,  
But our two bowlers were champing at the bit,  
Next over another wicket bit the dust,  
It seemed that Nic and John had the batting sussed.

Then to bat came the last batsman of the game,  
But Little John returned him to whence he came.  
The match played that Wednesday was really good fun,  
And as you may have guessed by now - our team won.

Richard McCarthy

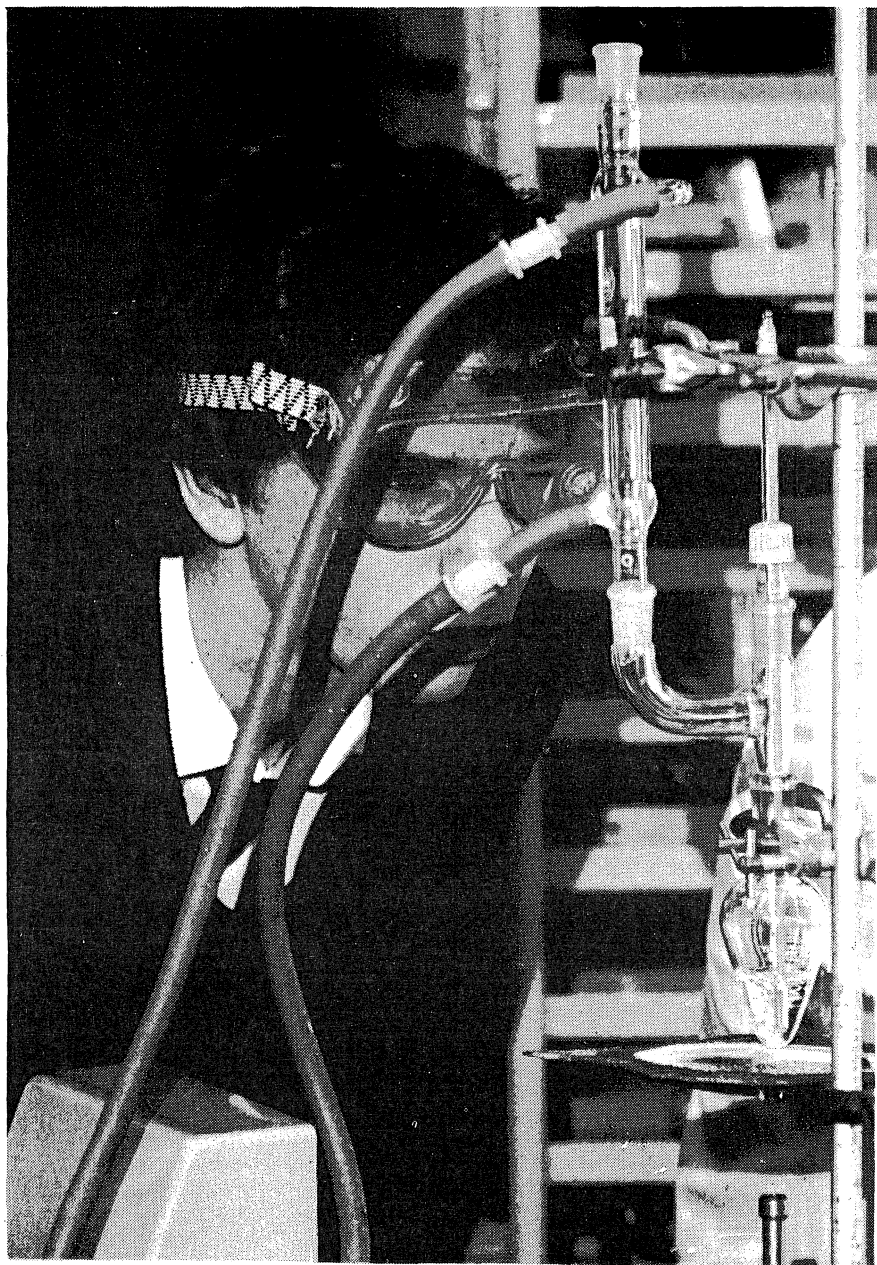


RAG WEEK: THE BED-PUSH TEAM ASSEMBLED.



TUG-OF-WAR: NEWPORT JUNIORS ON THE ROPE.





ROBIN WOODGER observes the boiling point of propanone, through goggles, dimly.



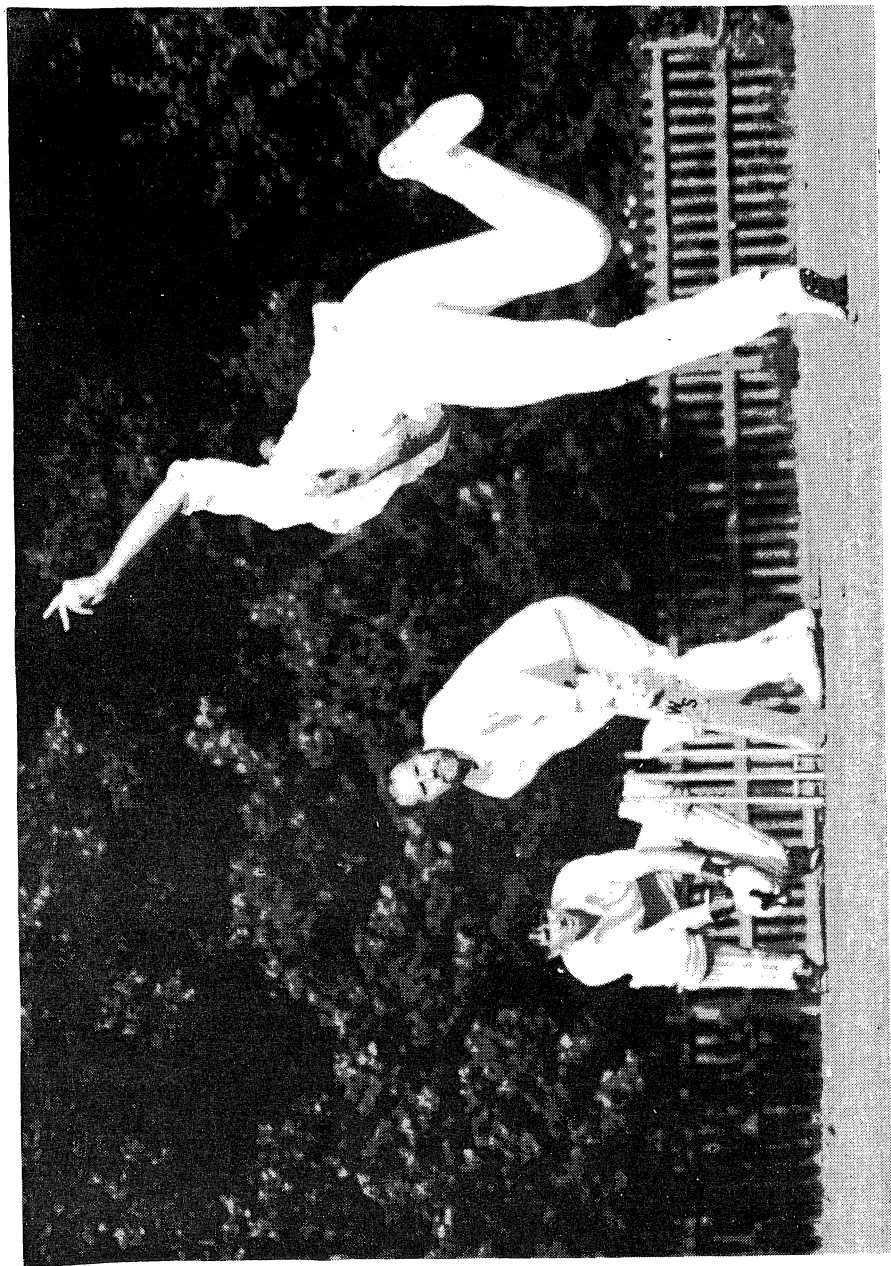
RAG WEEK: THE BED-PUSH TEAM LEAVES AGS FOR STRATFORD.



RAG WEEK: THE GREAT POP QUIZ IN SESSION.



RAG WEEK: D.T.M. ENJOYS A SPLASHING!



STAFF VERSUS FIRST XI: C.R.S. AT THE WICKET.





CANOE CLUB: Rachel Savage, Gina Ravenhall and  
Liam Hurley take the Canadian canoe on the Avon.

## MAY I DETAIN YOU FOR A MOMENT ?

With the advent of the new Senior Common Room at Alcester Grammar School and the upheaval caused by moving into new premises, recent activities of an archaeological nature have unearthed certain historical documents, among them - The Detention Book. This book, its pages full of the villains, their victims and other hapless individuals, casts an interesting light on crime and punishment years ago and contradicts accusations of falling standards in Schools.

Language, for example, has been variously described over the years as 'immoderate', 'rude', 'foul', 'obscene' and even 'profane' - presumably with a sliding scale of punishments. Smoking was a popular misdemeanor in cloakrooms, toilets and school coaches. This last offence is noted less often nowadays; children seemingly are more aware of its dangers. Spitting likewise is on the decline - a tribute perhaps to the improving health of the population and a reflection of reduced pollution levels. Or was it because teachers were more observant in bygone days? One N\*\*\*\*\* S\*\*\*\*\* was penalised for 'Spitting (2nd offence)' a full three years after the first.

Two features of the past stand out; the originality of some of the offences recorded and the delicacy of the language used to record them. Thus 'Entering a common eating-house at lunchtime, contrary to the customs and usages of the school' or, more prosaically, 'At the café'. 'Illegal propulsion of a paper pellet' leaves one wondering what forms of propulsion would have been thought legal. Was 'Illicit use of groundsman's equipment' connected in any way with 'Abuse of apple tree'? Another budding botanist is later observed 'Throwing Lavender into a bush' - a lavender bush? The luckless Lavender was earlier punished for being 'absent without leave', presumably trying to avoid his earlier foliation.

Life was clearly full of dangers with pupils 'Causing an explosion', 'Locking girls underneath the stage', 'Peppering R\*\*\*\*\* R\*\*\*\*\*'s custard' and 'Attempting GBH on M\*\*\*\*\* W\*\*\*\*\*'. 'Damaging G\*\*\*\*\*'s trousers with a hot iron' leaves your chronicler in suspense - G\*\*\*\*\*, we are left hoping, was elsewhere at the time.

Early forms of entertainment are well documented, among them being animal impersonation. Thus 'T. G\*\*\* making woodpecker noises ad nauseam outside room 11'. Guardian readers once swelled the teaching ranks, as evidenced by the large number of cryptograms found in the book: 'O.O.S.-W.P.A.L.T.', 'unauthorised self-mutilation', 'Conduct prejudicial' and the ominous sounding 'Section 40'.

Perhaps the most encouraging feature of the book is the fact that its loss four years ago seems not to have caused great discomfort to the teaching staff - perhaps I'll let you off this time!

M.L.



## IN PLACE OF SPEECH DAY

There has been a growing feeling in recent years that the traditional form of Speech Day has lost some of its relevance but that special occasions for parents, leavers and Governors still have an important place in the life of a school.

After considerable thought, the staff proposed an alternative which the Governors have approved and the new scheme operated this year for the first time. Instead of one function there are two!

The first is in the last week of the autumn term, when, in the hope that all those who left school in July are home for Christmas, we hold a "Leavers' Night". This is a social reunion for leavers, their parents, staff and Governors, at which the 'A' and 'O' level certificates are presented. It is hoped that Leaver's Night will become a popular and regular feature of school life.

The second function takes place during the last week of the summer term, when we invite Governors to a presentation assembly at which the sports trophies for the year, and the prizes for the special projects are presented. In this way the Governors see the whole school in more normal circumstances than at Speech Day and the occasion has more direct relevance to the events in which the pupils have taken part during the year.

We hope that these two functions prove to be popular with all concerned.

J.W.R.T.

## THE SPECIAL PRIZES

*Following the changes made in our Speech Day arrangements this year, the special prizes have been awarded as follows:*

*The Audrey Webley Prize is awarded for the best contributions to the school magazine. The prize for senior members of the School was won by Paul Holl and that for juniors by Debbie Clark. Their contributions are printed below.*

*The Ernest Walker Prize, awarded for the best project work in either History, Geography or Science was awarded jointly to Mark Jewitt, Brian Nicholson and Andrew Watson in the senior division and to Caroline Stern in the junior section. The Simon Hancox Prize for the best piece of work in Art or Craft was awarded to Thomas Holmes.*

*Prizes for service to the school were awarded to the Head Boy and Head Girl, Richard McCarthy and Fiona Apsley and to their deputies, David Holloway and Leila Khan*

## LIFE ON THE FRONT LINE

One afternoon in January, I received a telephone call from the Royal Navy Officer responsible for liaison with schools, who asked me if I would like to go to Belize. Somewhat startled, I agreed. By the end of the conversation, all I knew was that on April 30th I would fly out to Belize City and join HMS Plymouth. Belize I later discovered on consultation with an atlas, was in Central America surrounded by British Honduras and Guatemala.

I heard nothing more until a fortnight before I was due to go, when I received my flight ticket and final details through the post. I had to be at RAF Brize Norton by 9.00 p.m. on April 29th to check in for my flight at 7.00 a.m. the next morning. In the hotel near the airport I met the other three who would be travelling with me, one from Stoke-on-Trent, one from Liverpool and one from Bewdley. The flight, in an RAF VC10, took 13 hours with a short stop-over at Dulles airport in Washington.

The first thing that hit me when I stepped off the plane in Belize was the heat - over 90 fahrenheit in the shade and 120 in the sun! Our first destination was the swimming pool to cool off, and we did not explore the airport camp until things cooled down. It looked like a run-down Butlins. Most of the next day, a Wednesday, was spent around the swimming pool recovering from jet-lag.

On Thursday morning we discovered that there were no sights to be seen in Belize City. The 'houses' were rickety wooden huts balanced on stilts. The city had been devastated by a hurricane in 1980, but it might have happened the day before we arrived. On to the harbour next to catch a patrol boat to take us out to HMS Plymouth, a Type 12, Rothesay Class, Frigate which could not come closer in shore because of a large barrier reef. Once on board we were given a brief tour of the ship and were introduced to the Captain, who told us why the British were in Belize. Apparently Belize used to be part of British Honduras but when the colonies were told that they could become independent if they wished, the Belizean government asked Britain to leave some troops out there until its own defence force was established. The British were happy to do this because they could use the jungle for manoeuvres and target practice. The Nicaraguans were happy because the troops would keep the Guatemalans out of Belize and the Guatemalans were unlikely to invade because they would have to fight America and Britain if they did.

The rest of Thursday and Friday morning were spent on the ship examining the Wasp helicopter facilities and the radar and sonar equipment. Friday evening was devoted to a party at the airport camp which included government officials and the Belizean president among the guests.

On Saturday we were shown the ship's communications and weapons, which included guns, missiles, 'chaff' guns (they fire a cloud of metal strips away from the ship to confuse the radar of approaching missiles), mortar-bomb launchers and the helicopter with its antisubmarine equipment. When the ship was in the Falklands campaign three bombs hit it, and one of these ended up in the magazine which held 500 mortar bombs. Fortunately it failed to explode. Saturday ended with another party.

On Sunday the ship started to move South in the company of the entire Belizean Navy - two small patrol boats, and refuelled from a Royal Fleet Auxiliary tanker 'Black Rover'. All four vessels carried out manoeuvres which gave us the opportunity to see how a ship is handled. We anchored that evening off the coast of Punta Gorda and went to a party at Rideau Camp just inland.

We moved further South early on Monday morning and sailed up and down parallel to a range of hills which were to be used as a target for 'Naval Gunfire Support' - an operation which involved firing the main armament (two 4.5 inch guns in a turret) at one of the hills where there were scouts from the army installed to report where the shots landed so that corrections could be made. This continued until the target was hit every time irrespective of the position of the ship. As we were six miles from the coast at the time the shots took 27 seconds to reach the hills. Things were interrupted by the arrival of a Guatemalan gunboat which got into the line of fire at first, then interfered with the Belizean boat escorting us, but it soon went when the helicopter took off and hovered above it taking photographs. After the gunfire support was finished (76 rounds had been fired) we sailed back to anchor off Punta Gorda. There was another party, on board ship.

On Tuesday morning we returned by the courtesy of all three forces. A Wasp helicopter (Navy) took us to Rideau Camp, a Puma helicopter took us to Airport Camp and the RAF VC10 brought us home.

Paul Holl

## SUMMER TIME

Across the land the trees awaken,  
As if by some strange magic shaken,  
The woods which seemed so dull and bare,  
Are covered in a 'wakening air'.  
A hazy mist of green is growing  
While all around, new colours showing.

And all along the bank and lane,  
The petals fall, like gentle rain.  
For Summer's call has come at last  
And Winter's spell she has uncast.

The children running out to play,  
With smiling faces greet the day.  
The cuckoo dares to sing his song,  
The first to hear him is the lucky one.  
The cows are grazing, slowly chewing,  
The world seems lazy, nothing doing.  
The only busy one I see  
Is the pollen-searching honey bee.

But if I go into the town  
And look at everything around,  
I see a different kind of life,  
A shouting child, a busy wife.  
How strange the cars and people seem,  
A noisy bustle, never-ending stream.

How different Summer seems out here.  
Another world it would appear.  
And yet they both share summertime,  
But the country summer is sublime.

Debbie Clark

## MRS MARGARET PRICE

Mrs. Price joined the school Governors in 1975 and through her ten years of association with the school she was unrelenting both in her efforts to improve conditions and facilities and in her defence of the type of education offered here. Through both her membership as a County Councillor of the various Education Committees and her influence outside committee rooms, she was able to ensure that the problems and needs of the school were well known by those who had the means and authority to deal with them.

For the past two years Mrs. Price had been Chairman of Governors and it was a great delight to her last autumn to see the start of the extensions to the Library for which she had worked so long. She presented the certificates at the first Leavers' Night last December and fully supported the revised arrangements to replace Speech Day.

It was a great sadness and, indeed, cruel that she was not able to see the completion of the building, nor to attend the final assembly in July. Her untimely death has deprived the school of a friend and great supporter: we extend our deepest sympathy to her husband and family, and record here our gratitude for all her work at Alcester Grammar School.

J.W.R. Turner  
Headmaster

## SENIOR PREFECTS 1985 – 1986

Head Boy : Philip Teasdale

Head Girl : Karen Harman

Deputies : Liam Hurley and Thea Hughes

All members of the Lower Sixth undertook prefectorial duties from the beginning of the Summer Term 1985

## CONGRATULATIONS

Yet again members of the school have distinguished themselves in various ways and deserve our congratulations. Rowena Wade won the national award for the best project, and the star award for the best entry on her topic in the BTA study cards competition. Her sister, Miranda, won first prize in her age group and the star award for the best entry in her subject in the same competition. As a result of these successes, the school is to receive £800 for the purchase of books for the library.

Declan Gilroy has been admitted to Brasenose College in the University of Oxford to read Metallurgy.

Andrew Thomson has been awarded a scholarship at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth and will go on to the Royal Naval Engineering College, Mandon to study for a degree in Engineering.

Michael Humphrey became National Cyclist of the Year, and went on to represent the United Kingdom in the international competition in Portugal. His own account of the latter event is to be found elsewhere in this edition of 'The Record'.

Chris Donovan (1966-73), who works as a production engineer for Willmott Ltd., has been awarded a Fellowship by the Engineering Training Board.

Simon Butler (1974-81), has been elected President of the Union at St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham.

Robin Holland is making a remarkable success as a semi-professional drummer while continuing his 'A' level studies at school. His fellow members of the group 'The Very Things' (formerly 'The Cravats') are both Old Scholars; Christopher Harz (1969-76) and Robin Dallaway (1968-75). Over the past year they have secured a recording contract with Reflex Records of Malvern, through which they have released two singles and an L.P. These releases have received considerable Radio 1 airplay and coverage in the music press. A session which the band recorded for the 'John Peel Show' has established 'The Very Things' as a firm favourite of the Radio 1 DJ. A 6 minute video of the band's material was shown on 'The Tube' on Channel 4 in August this year. They have made successful tours of Holland, Germany and Switzerland and further trips to Greece, Japan and the USA are planned.

Sally Smith regularly represents Warwickshire in the Under 21 dressage team, the Under 21 Show-Jumping team and the Under 18 Horse Trials team, and was short-listed for the England junior eventing team.

Jason Strain, Adam Mansell, Tabitha Davison, Fay Baldry, Katie Shanahan and Robert Sergeant all received their Bronze Awards for fencing during the year. We congratulate them all, together with their instructor, Mrs. Hammond.

Michael Poole, competing in the Warwickshire Swimming Championships, swam the fastest 100m front crawl in his age group.

Louise Rqss has been working with Captain Smith of the Church Army - a blind gentleman - and a book which is to be printed in Braille with a large-print version for the partially sighted. A shortened version is to be recorded on tape and distributed to all churches in the country, and all schools for the blind, for use as a sermon.

Liam Hurley, Stephen Young, Karen Harman, Sonia Galbraith, Robert Redman, Samantha Davies, Anthony Bonsen, Andrew Williams, and Sara Wood all obtained their Advanced First Aid Certificates. We congratulate them also, together with their instructor, Mrs. Khan.

In 1985, Victor Christou (1982-84) was awarded the Watson Scholarship which is presented to students reading Chemistry, or chemistry-related subjects, in their first year at University. Only those who achieve outstanding 'A' level results are eligible for the scholarship. Victor is reading Chemistry at the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

Finally we must congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Meadowcroft on the birth of their daughter, Laura Kathryn on 22nd January 1985.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

All subjects are taken with the University of Oxford Local Board except for Mathematics and further mathematics at Advanced and S level which are taken with the Cambridge Local Board. Awards at CSE level are made by the West Midlands Examining Board.

### CODE:

e-English language, el-English literature, f-French, g-German, h-history, ec-economics, gy-geography, m-mathematics, fm-further mathematics, am-additional mathematics, p-physics, c-chemistry, b-biology hb-human biology, mw-metalwork, ed-engineering drawing, he-home economics, a-art, mu-music, cs-computer studies, l-Latin, rs-religious studies, nwd-needlework and dress, fn-food and nutrition, cdt-craft, design and technology, lw-law, gs-general studies.

\* denotes that the highest grade was awarded. Distinction and merit at S level are denoted by 1 and 2 respectively.

### AUTUMN 1984 - Ordinary Level

Philip Buglass	: h	Sally Smith	: m
Katie Pritchard	: el	Leslie Hancocks	: el
Tracey Masterson	: e	Stephen Jackson	: e*
Suzanne Coldicutt	: el,f	Ross Nicholls	: f
Philip Teasdale	: ed	Sally Martin	: a*
Gillian Bubb	: e	James Butterworth	: e

# SUMMER 1985

## ADVANCED LEVEL - Upper Sixth

Paul Appelquist	: c,p,m*	Alan Baker	: el,h*,gy*,gs
Kevin Brannan	: ec,gy,gs	Richard Catterall	: gy,p,m
Clive Cowin	: ec,gy	David Holloway	: gy*,p,m
Jonathan Smith	: gy,a	Marianne George	: el,a
Mary Laughlin	: ec,fn,a*	Sandra Oddy	: el
Carole Retter	: el,m	Simon Crick	: h,ec*,gy,gs
Stephen Hemingway	: c,p,m	Neil Johnson	: gy,c,p
Iain King	: gy	Richard McCarthy	: c,p,m
Clifford Moore	: c,p,gs,fm	Matthew Probert	: c*1,p*2,gs,fm
Fiona Apsley	: c,p,gs,fm	Helen Young	: c,b
Richard Brice	: c*1,p*2,gs,fm*	Andrew Buxton	: c2,p,b
Jonathan Guest	: h,ec,gs	Trevor Humphrey	: f,ec,gs
David Laughlin	: el,b,gs	Colin Martin	: c,p*,fm
Brian Nicholson	: c*,p*2,m*	Ian Rawlings	: p,b
Anne Buszard	: b	Andrea Copping	: a
Sarah Jones	: el,a,gs	Sally Martin	: el,h,gs
Glenn Anderson	: c*,p*2,b,gs,m*	Christos Christou	: c*1,p*1,gs,fm
Declan Gilroy	: c,p,m	Neil Hoare	: p
Giles Martin	: p,a*,m	Gregory Mason	: c,p
Julian Murgatroyd	: c*2,p*,gs,fm	Mark Waldron	: c*,p*,fm
Fiona Davis	: el,h,ec	Lisa Gascoigne	: c,p,b
Sarah Harris	: el,f*2,g	Lynn Tyrer	: gs,m
Nicola Vizor	: el,f,gs	Martin Bartlett	: c,p,m
Jeremy Cuffe	: p,b	John Holder	: c,p,b
Robert Knight	: gy,b,gs	James Leek	: c,p,gs,m
James Powell	: p,b	Timothy Shaw	: gy2,p,m
Fiona Lawrence	: f,ec,m	Jane Moulson	: el,c,b
Judith Ratledge	: ec,b		

## ADVANCED LEVEL - Mathematics in the Lower Sixth

Keith Baldry\*; Paul Holl\*; Ross Nicholls\*; Andrew Thomson; Karen Harman\*

## ORDINARY LEVEL - Fifth Forms

Timothy Andrews	: e*,el*,h*,gy*,f,m,c,b
Paul Bradley	: e*,gy,f,am,cs,c,p,cd
Paul Brice	: e,gy,am,c,p,b
Peter Charlton	: m
James Couchman	: e*,el*,f,g,am,c,p,b,mu
Adrian Duffin	: e,h,gy,f,m*,cs,c,p
Maxwell Harris	: e,gy,m,cs,c,p
Andrew Haywood	: e,gy*,f*,am,cs*,c*,p*,b
Andrew Hedges	: e,h,gy,f,am,c*,p*,b
Paul Lane	: e,p
Robert Lewis	: e*,gy,f,am,cs,c,p,b
Philip Marklew	: e,h,gy,m,cs,c
Andrew Marshall	: e*,gy*,f,am,cs*,c*,p*,b*
Nicholas Mole	: e*,el,gy,f,g,cs,p
Richard Paget	: e,gy,f,m*,cs*,c*,p*,b*
Carl Ravenhall	: e,gy,f,m*,cs,c,p
Neil Walters	: e*,gy,m,p,b,a,cd

Fay Baldry	: e,gy*,f,am*,cs,c*,p*,b*
Sara Beaumont	: e,el,hb,a
Nicola Cooper	: e,el,h,f,m
Joanna Cummings	: e,el,m,c,b,a
Tabitha Davison	: e,el*,f*,m,b,a
Lara Fenton	: e*,el*,h,f*,g,m*,c,b,mu
Alexandra Hartwell	: e,el
Emma Lediard	: a
Kay Lewis	: e,h,gy,f,p
Victoria McCarthy	: e*,h,f,c,p,b
Vanice Mills	: e,f,m,hb
Tracey Mitchell	: e*,f,m,fn,a
Susan Pain	: e,el,f,m,hb*,fn
Annette Worrall	: e,f,m,hb,fn
Timothy Crick	: e,el,m,p
Andrew Dyke	: e,el,gy,f,m
Adrian Escott	: e,el,f,g,am*,c*,p*,b
Matthew Farmer	: e,h,gy,f,am,c,b
Alec Finnemore	: e,gy,f,m*,cs*,cd
Christopher Guillaume	: e,f,m,cs,c,p
Mark Hancox	: e*,h*,gy*,f*,am,c,p,cd
Thomas Holmes	: e,h,gy*,f,p,a,cd
Paul Humphrey	: e,f,m*,cs,c,p
Dominic Hurley	: e,el,h,gy,f,m*,c,p
Michael Pegg	: e,m
Neil Rutter	: e,gy*,f,m,p,a,cd
Robert Sergeant	: e*,el*,f*,g*,am*,c*,p*,b*
Alan Stanley	: e,h,f,m*,cs,c*,p,cd
James Winton	: e*,h*,gy,f,m,c*,p,b
Christopher Yates	: e,f,m,cs,p
Megan Atherton	: e*,el,hb,a
Nerys Brougham	: e,m
Caroline Cuffe	: e,m
Jane Evans	: e,m*,p,b,fn,a
Alison Grubb	: f,a
Nicola Hill	: e,el,f,m,b,fn,a
Emma Maloney	: e*,el,h,f,g,c,p
Emma Metcalfe	: e*,el,h*,gy,f,m,b,a*
Sarah Myring	: e*,h*,gy,f,m,c,p,b
Carol Newell	: e,f,m,c
Nicola Spearing	: m,p,fn
Lisa Starkey	: e*,h*,gy,f,m,c,p
Sarah Stevens	: e,el,gy,f,m*,c,b,fn
Blanche Surman	: e,gy,f,m,cs,p,fn
Andrea Woodrow	: e*,el*,h,gy,f,m,hb,a*

ORDINARY LEVEL - Upper Sixth

David Laughlin - a; Sarah Harris - 1



ORDINARY LEVEL - Lower Sixth

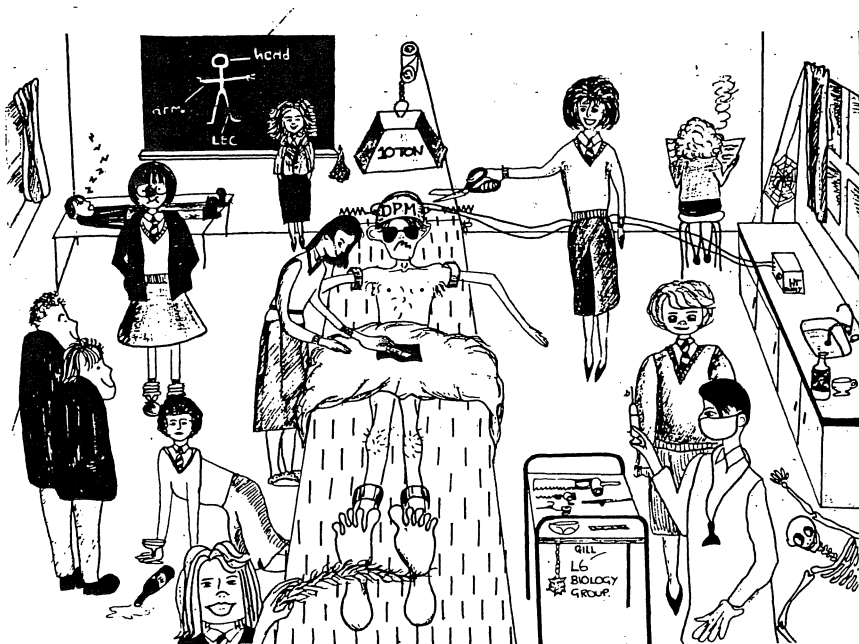
Anthony Bonsen - ec,gl; Phillip Buglass - ec,m,gl; Andrew Butler - ec;  
Graham Farmer - ec,gl; Timothy Golder - ec; David Griffiths - cs;  
Stephen Hall - ec\*,cs; Russell Harrison - ec; Mark Jewitt - ec;  
Andrew Jones - ec; Howard Lewis-Jones - ec; Gary Phillips - ec\*,a;  
Robert Redman - cs; David Squires - ec,a; Philip Teasdale - ec,gl;  
Karl Vondrak - hb\*,gl; Andrew Watson - cs; Andrew Williams - gl;  
Robin Woodger - cs; Nicholas Wootton-Jones - ec; Stephen Young - ec\*;  
Sarah Cotton - ec\*,cs\*; Sarah Cox - cs; Ingrid Elliott - cs;  
Sonia Galbraith - ec\*,hb\*,lw\*; Rachael Haines - ec; Cheryl Harper - cs;  
Thea Hughes - ec\*,cs; Teresa Jackson - cs; Tracey McCalman - a;  
Katherine Newey - g; Kate Pritchard - ec; Louise Ross - ec\*,a,lw;  
Karon Woodward - a

ORDINARY LEVEL - Mathematics in the Fourth Form

Nicholas Cole, Jonathan Dale\*, Paul Davies\*, Kerith Rees\*, David Wells\*  
Ian Whitehead\*, Rebecca Bubb, Julie Grimble\*, Sarah Hamblin\*, Diane Hims\*  
Rachel Holden, Yasmin Khan\*, Kate McClellan\*, Hayley Monks\*,  
Kirsteen Richardson\*, Xanthe Ryle\*, Rachael Sawtell\*, Mark Wedgebury\*

CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION - Chemistry in the Fifth Form

Grades 1 to 6 are awarded: Peter Charlton - 4; Paul Lane - 2;  
Nicola Cooper - 2; Kay Lewis - 2; Vanice Mills - 2; Susan Pain - 2;  
Timothy Crick - 2; Michael Pegg - 3; Megan Atherton - 4; Caroline Cuffe -  
2; Alison Grubb - 2.



# LEAVERS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS

## SIXTH FORM LEAVERS

### To Universities:

Glenn Anderson (Medicine at St. George's Hospital, London); Paul Appelquist (Electronic Engineering and Physics at Loughborough); Alan Baker (History at Edinburgh); Martin Bartlett (Civil Engineering at Liverpool); Kevin Brannan (Geography at Swansea); Richard Brice (Electronic Engineering and Physics at Loughborough); Andrew Buxton (Medicine at University College London in 1986); Christos Christou (Physics at Bristol); Declan Gilroy (Materials Science at Brasenose College, Oxford); Stephen Hemingway (Electronic Engineering at Sheffield); David Holloway (Geography and Geology at Cardiff); Trevor Humphrey (Economics and French at Kent); James Leek (Physics at Birmingham); Colin Martin (Engineering Science at Edinburgh); Julian Murgatroyd (Physics at Birmingham); Brian Nicholson (Physics with Electronics at Southampton); Matthew Probert (Physics at Birmingham); Timothy Shaw (Geography at Aberystwyth); Mark Waldron (Electrical Engineering at Southampton); Fiona Apsley (Physics at Nottingham); Lisa Gascoigne (Physiology and Zoology at Royal Holloway College, London); Sarah Harris (French and Dutch at Jesus College, Cambridge); Helen Young (Biology at Royal Holloway College, London).

### To Polytechnics and other centres of Higher Education :

Clive Cowin (Geography at Portsmouth Poly); Jeremy Cuffe (Applied Biology at Portsmouth Poly); John Holder (Applied Biological Sciences at Bristol Poly); David Laughlin (Drama, Dance, Film and Television at York and Ripon College); Gregory Mason (Physical Science at Coventry Poly); Fiona Davis (Hotel and Catering Management at Leeds Poly); Marianne George (Education at Portsmouth Poly); Fiona Lawrence (Business Studies at Plymouth Poly); Sally Martin (History and Archaeology at King Alfred's College, Winchester); Nicola Vizer (Business Studies at Bristol Poly in 1986).

### To Other Higher Education or Training :

James Butterworth (Trainee with Marks and Spencer p.l.c.); Neil Hoare (Trainee Accountant with N.F.U. Mutual Assurance); Iain King (Hendon Police College as entrant to the Metropolitan Police); Robert Knight (Management Trainee with Walls Ltd., Evesham); Giles Martin (Art Foundation Course at MWCFE); Clifford Moore (Trainee Accountant with H.L. Barnes, Stratford-upon-Avon); Jonathan Smith (Art Foundation Course at MWCFE); Andrea Copping (Nursing at Princess Alexandra Hospital, London); Sarah Jones (Art Foundation Course at MWCFE); Leila Khan (Nursing at the Middlesex Hospital); Mary Laughlin (Art Foundation Course at MWCFE); Judith Ratledge (Radiography at the Plymouth School of Radiography); Carole Retter (Banking with National Westminster Bank); Lynn Tyrer (Management Trainee with Waitrose Supermarkets, Marlborough).

## FIFTH FORM LEAVERS

Peter Charlton (YTS with John Merryman Engineering, Ullenhall); Maxwell Harris (Apprenticeship with the Royal Navy); Philip Marklew (BEC National in Business Studies at SWCFE); Sara Beaumont (BEC National in Hotel and Catering Studies at SWCFE); Nicola Cooper (BEC National in Travel and Tourism at SWCFE); Alexandra Hartwell (Secretarial Studies at Redditch CFE); Emma Lediard (employment and day release with Renver International, Studley); Annette Worrall (Secretarial Studies at SWCFE); Christopher Guillaume (Computer Studies at MWCFE); Michael Pegg (CITB Craft Course at MWCFE); Megan Atherton (Nursery Nursing at MWCFE); Alison Grubb (Hotel and Catering Studies at Redditch CFE); Andrea Woodrow (A levels at SWCFE).

## STAFF NEWS

Mr. Percival left us at the end of the Autumn Term to go to Myton School, Warwick, as Head of Modern Languages. He joined us in September 1980 and at once made a contribution to many of our activities. He put a tremendous amount of work into the organisation of exchange visits to schools in both France and Germany and into hosting their return visits to us. On the sports side he coached many school teams in both Rugby and Cricket and helped to revive the lapsed custom of Staff versus School matches at Hockey. We are sorry to lose him and wish him every success in his new post.

Mr. Brinson came to AGS in September 1975 to teach Music and Religious Education and now leaves us to go to St. Michaels, Burton Park, at Petworth in Sussex. We will remember the superb carol services which he organised every year and the splendid concerts at the end of each Summer Term, when hitherto unknown talents were displayed in profusion. He was also instrumental, with Mr. Green, in launching the School on an entirely new venture, the production of Gilbert and Sullivan operas. We will be sorry to lose him and likewise wish him well in his new appointment. Without his Grand-Prix style starts from the car park, the School will never be the same.

A great gap was made in the customary fabric of things with the departure of Mrs. Matthews in April. She had been with us since 1972; her contribution to the School was immense, both as a teacher and in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. She taught English, Biology, Geography and Religious Education at various times, as well as Games, and her versatility provided a solution to many a timetable problem. Her contribution to staff social events was much appreciated. We shall miss her sorely and wish her well in her new career as a guest house proprietor in her beloved Lakeland.

We are also sorry to say good-bye to Mr. Schillizi and Mrs. Pasteur who came to fill in during the interregnum which resulted from the departure of Mr. Percival. Mrs. Meadowcroft we are also glad to have back with us. We reported her arrival last year; she left in the Autumn Term on maternity leave and returned during the Summer Term. She also gets a mention in the 'Congratulations' section of the Record.

At the end of the Easter Term we lost Mr. Calcroft, our Caretaker for the past 15 years. We wish him and Mrs. Calcroft a long and happy retirement.

Turning now to newcomers, Mr. Richard Dobell, who will be Head of the Music Department, worked for a firm of leather merchants in London for 9 years, where he was Company Secretary, before going to Exeter University to take an honours degree in Music. As well as being an accomplished organist he is also a fully trained accountant. He has a special interest in composition and performance as well as in listening to music in a wide range of styles. He has spent the last year teaching at KES. The new Head of Modern Languages, Mr. Graham Wells graduated in French at the University of Manchester and has spent the last 5 years teaching at a comprehensive school in Maidenhead. He has considerable experience of organising and conducting exchange visits to France and numbers music and opera among his spare time interests.

Two part-time teachers joined us in September; Mrs. Green to teach Religious Education and Mrs. Johnson to teach Geography. They are not newcomers - both have been with us before.

Finally we welcome Mr. Chandler as our new Caretaker. He comes to us from Bredon Hill Middle School and we hope that his stay with us will be a long and happy one.

## OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

Joanna Tuplin (1975-82) has been awarded the degree of BSc, class 2(i), in Botany at the University of Manchester and is now working in Portsmouth as an Analyst/Programmer for IBM.

Paul Hedges (1980-82) has gained the degree of BSc, class 2(i), in Computer Science at the University of Manchester.

William Wilkes (1975-82) has been awarded a BSc, 1st class, in Geology at the University of Durham.

Richard Horton (1975-82) has obtained a BSc, class 2(ii), in Geology at Birmingham University.

Dawn Drinkwater (1976-81) obtained in 1983 a distinction in the City and Guilds Home Management and Family Care course at MWCCE and is now working as a Care Assistant at Lower Meadow Old Peoples' Home in Stratford.

Jane Broderick (1973-80) is now working for the British Medical Association in the professional, scientific and international affairs division, dealing mainly with the EEC and Ethics Committees.

Robin Hancox (1960-67) now lives near Stroud in Gloucestershire. He was awarded a BA by the Open University in 1984.

Jennifer Fraser (1972-79) has been appointed Manageress of the new Laura Ashley shop (the largest in the UK) which is to open shortly in Regent Street in London.

News of the Glaze family reached us in September 1984 too late for inclusion in the previous edition of 'The Record'. The family moved to Berkhamstead five years ago, but is now back in Stratford. Jane (1978-80) after obtaining a BA, class 2(i), in Music and Sociology at the University of Keele, studied for her post-graduate certificate in education there and is now teaching at St. Mary's School in Sheffield. Nicola (1975-80) is now reading French with German at London University and has now finished a year as an assistante at Creteil near Paris. David (1977-80) is now studying French and German at Keele University.

Pauline Ashton (1970-77), having taught for two years in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, moved to London in 1984 to work full-time for the Girl Guide Association. She is responsible for organizing the staffing of the training programme for adult leaders, and has an assistant and no fewer than three typists under her command! She represents the Guide Association at meetings of various organizations, clubs and societies all over the country.

Russell Buxton (1974-81), has gained the degree of BSc, class 2(i), in Engineering Science at the University of Cambridge.

James Emerson (1975-82) has been awarded a BSc, class 2(i), in Applied Physics at the University of Durham.

Susan Wright (1973-80), has been awarded a BA, class 2(i), in Swedish and German, at the University of East Anglia.

Clare Sawyer (1972-79) has obtained her BM at the University of Southampton and is to do her year of registrable service at Princess Margaret's Hospital, Swindon, starting in August 1985.

Mandy Smart (1973-80), has been awarded the degree of MB,ChB at the University of Leeds.

David Apsley (1975-82), has been awarded the degree of BA, 1st class, in Mathematics at the University of Cambridge, thereby earning the title of 'Wrangler'. He is to stay on at Cambridge next year to take the one-year Part III course in Mathematics.

Anne Griffiths (1974-81), having been awarded an MA, class 2(i), in Arabic and German at the University of St. Andrews, is now working at GCHQ in Cheltenham.

Philip Wright (1976-83), has been awarded a scholarship by the University of Swansea to study in the USA.

Ian Watson (1973-78) is now Warehouse Manager for Debenhams in Telford.

John O'Sullivan (1968-76), has a BA, class 2(i), in Fine Art and is working for Marshall Cavendish Publishing Company in London. He has recently been appointed Art Editor.

Lorraine O'Sullivan (1969-76), now has an MA in English and Psychology and after spending a year working in London, did postgraduate work at Moray House College in Edinburgh. She has now finished her second year of teaching in Edinburgh and hopes to enter the field of Educational Psychology.

Geraldine O'Sullivan (1975-77), is now teaching at Blessed Thomas Holford Secondary School in Altrincham.

Carolyn O'Sullivan (1972-79), now has a BSc, class 2(i), in Psychology and is working at the Qualitative Research Centre, investigating the underlying psychology of advertising.

Richard Devey (1977-84), is a Laboratory Technician at BSA Precision Castings and is at present taking a day release course in Metallurgy at Lanchester Polytechnic in Coventry.

Michael Randall (1973-78), has been awarded the degree of BA, 1st class, by the CNAА after study at Walsall College, and is to go to the Centre for Mass Communication Research at the University of Leicester to study for an MA.

Alice Emerson (1973-80), has been awarded the degrees of MB,BS and Bachelor of Medical Science at the University of Nottingham.

Anne Hunt (1973-80), has been awarded the degree of BA, class 2(ii) in Architecture at Heriot Watt University.

Elizabeth West (1980-82), has been awarded the degree of LLB, class 2(ii) at the University of Cardiff.

Julie Read (1974-81), has been awarded the degree of BA, class 2(ii), in Business Studies by the CNAА. She studied at Hatfield Polytechnic.

Sandra Latham (1968-75), has been awarded the degree of BSc, class 2(i) in Medical Science at the University of Bradford.

Graham Hemming (1974-81) has been awarded the degree of BSc, class 2(ii) in Physics at the University of Bath.

Andrew Boston (1975-82), has been awarded the degree of BSc class 2(i) in Physics at the University of Oxford.

Simon Butler (1974-81), has been awarded a BA class 2(ii) in History and Sociology at St. Mary's College in the University of London.

Judy Tutt (1980-82), has obtained a second class Honours BA in History and Sociology at Oxford Polytechnic and is now taking a two year course at Leeds School of Law with the aim of becoming a Solicitor.

Christopher Probert (1978-80), graduated with MB,ChB from Birmingham in 1985, and is currently doing his year of 'house-jobs' in East Birmingham and the Queen Elizabeth Hospitals.

David Shore, who obtained his medical qualifications in 1984 at the University of Birmingham is currently doing vocational training in General Practice at Warwick Hospital. He also appears under the heading of 'Marriages' elsewhere in this edition.

Margaret Baker (nee Cullum, 1964-71) is now Product Marketing Manager for the office papers division of Wiggins Teape PLC. She has worked for the firm since leaving Brunel University in 1975, with an honours degree in Applied Chemistry. In 1985 she was responsible for launching a new range of copier papers on the market. Margaret and her husband live at Farnham in Surrey.

Phillipa Winter (1982-84), is to go to the University of Bristol to read for a degree in History in Autumn 1985.

Brian Hemming (1982-84) is to go to Plymouth Poly in Autumn 1985 to take an HND in Business Studies.

## BIRTHS

1984 : To Mr. and Mrs. William Ryder (nee Anne Longstaff (1967-74)) a son, Thomas Patrick.

1985 : To Ian (1969-75) and Paula Duffin a daughter, Charlotte Louise.

## DEATHS

1985 : We are very sad to have to report the death of Anna Bootle (1967-71) at her home in Geneva.

## MARRIAGES

1983 : John Shiels to Geraldine O'Sullivan (1975-77)

1984 : Gordon Marshall to Karen Miller (1974-79)  
Stuart Cargill to Cheryl Gulliver (1976-80)  
Ricki Rooke to Dawn Drinkwater (1976-81)  
Robin Hancox (1960-67) to Kathryn Toomer.  
Theodosia Miras to Tessa Baggett (1976-81)

1985 : Julian McMahon (1972-79) to Claire Mansell  
Colin Gardner to Sarah Diston (1978-84)  
Gregory Hickin (1975-81) to Helen Brice (1975-81)  
Jonathan Keep to Amanda Brewin (1972-79)  
Peter Masters to Jayne Copping (1974-81)  
David Shore (1973-79) to Jaqueline Horton  
Claire Sawyer (1972-79) to James Tomlinson

*Last year we read of Lucy Matthew's plans and preparations for her year of voluntary work in the Sudan. Now we have a report of her activities.*

## A YEAR IN THE SUDAN

With goodbyes said and final preparations made, five other Project Trust volunteers and I, shouldered our rucksacks containing a year's supply of just about everything, and left Heathrow, bound for Sudan.

Even a fairly torrid English summer could not prepare us for the horrors of Khartoum in mid-August - I spent the first week either fast asleep or drinking pints of suspicious-looking water. Once the official business in the capital was over - persuading the Ministry of Education to give us our work visas and the police to give us our passports - we split into pairs and travelled south to our separate projects.

My partner and I were posted to Sennar, a large affluent town (by Sudanese standards), built beside a dam on the Blue Nile. This legacy of the colonial days meant that, for most of the time at least, we had running water (of various hues) and even electricity. We soon settled in and grew to love Sennar's dusty streets, open sewers and cheery natives.

Meanwhile I began my career as a teacher. My first experiences on the wrong side of the teacher's table were reasonably horrific ones. I am sure that one has not known real terror until one has been faced with sixty blank, unblinking, uncomprehending faces, and tried to teach them the finer points of English grammar..... Fortunately as the weeks passed and the girls became accustomed to my coarse Alcester accent, communications improved, and provided that I stayed three pages further on in the grammar book than them, the lessons went fairly smoothly.

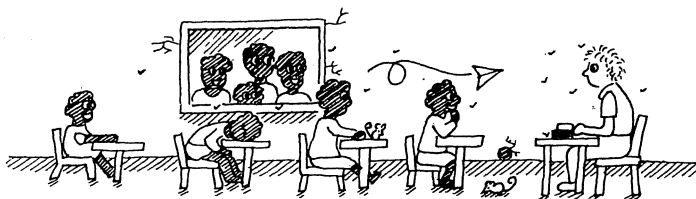
The school itself was a hive of total pandemonium. The Headmaster's hobby was suspending entire classes for days at a time, whilst the Deputy Head kept himself busy all term by making vital changes in complicated Arabic and then not telling anyone. The first term was quite eventful - school was closed by the police when riots broke out over bread shortages; I caught and recovered (just) from malaria; we moved from our cupboard-sized room in the school boarding-house (shared with several sparrows, two families of ants, lots of flies and a rat's nest) to a small house in town; a drastic hair-cut reduced me to Sennar's only skin-head; and term finished in a flurry of pre-Christmas exams. I spent the holidays in Northern Sudan, riding on various uncomfortable forms of public transport and visiting ancient temples, pyramids and burial chambers in an area historically influenced by Egypt. Then it was back to school for a final brief bash at the syllabus. Term ended in February, and after more exams and a few tearful farewells from our devoted students we left Sennar for another quick holiday. This one was much less hectic - a few days swimming, sun-bathing and eating tomato sandwiches beside the Red Sea.

For my second project I was to have first-hand experience of the massive refugee programme which has been so widely publicised in the West but largely ignored in well-fed and watered areas like Sennar. The eastern town of Gedaref, being headquarters for a dozen or so western aid organisations, seems to have a larger white population than that of its native Sudanese. I moved out to a small refugee settlement outside Gedaref called Um Gulqa. With a population of about eight thousand, the settlement isn't one of those gruesome reception camps shown on television - some of the families have been here for five years or more - but through living here I have been made aware of the much more permanent, desperate problems that face the refugees. There are no jobs here, no income for the poverty-stricken people, no prospect of returning home to Ethiopia. My work at the small clinic, run by the only other westerner, meant that every day I helped to feed the eighty malnourished babies that are brought to us and then went to visit more families in their homes. We give advice on which foods are most beneficial to the children, but without money, a mother may be lucky to be able to give her baby a filling, but nutritionally worthless, four spoonfuls of rice.

It is a side of the refugee problem that is rarely focussed upon by the press, but one that remains unchanged by political scrambles, military coups and the like - and one that will be with us for many years yet.

For myself this year in Sudan has been tremendous - to live amongst strangers in an alien country, culture and climate has been an experience and an eye-opener I would not have missed.

Lucy Matthews (1977-84)





## FROM ONE OF OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

Living in Florida produces many good and bad experiences. The good experiences include lying on the beach at weekends when the temperature is 90F, driving to Disneyworld for the day, hearing the space shuttle flying over the house and being within walking distance of the sea.

Unfortunately you have to take the good with the bad. Although I enjoy living in a tropical State, I do not enjoy having a snake about three feet long slither past my feet which has happened on more than one occasion. Nor do I like the huge, black cockroaches which find their way into the home, and even into your bed; they are also impossible to kill unless you have the proper poisonous spray on hand. Yet another drawback is the threat of hurricanes during the summer. I have now experienced my first hurricane; hurricane Elena caused millions of dollars-worth of damage in the Clearwater area where I live. At 2.00 a.m. one morning we were ordered to evacuate the area by the police, and were not allowed to return to our homes for three days. Luckily the hurricane did not strike us but moved away northwards; even so it left a trail of destruction in Clearwater and caused two deaths in the area.

Life in Florida is not at all like life in England; both the people and the customs are quite different. In school, first class begins at 7.30 a.m. and the last class begins at 2.35 p.m. with only a half-hour break at lunchtime. There is plenty to do and see in Florida and it is a relaxing way of life down here in the sun.

Rebecca Thirtle-Watts (1978-83)

## FROM ALCESTER TO OXFORD (WITH DETOURS)

As I put pen to paper, the terrible realisation is that it was 25 years ago that I was a nervous first year student at Alcester Grammar School. It was a very different place then - the old army huts with bats flying across the roof made for a memorable start to secondary education! It was while I was at Alcester that the new hall and teaching block were built: the British workman was a constant source of interest to us during breaks.

Much to my surprise, it was suggested that I should apply to Cambridge University. Knowing nothing of Cambridge (or any other University), I was reluctant - thinking that I might be out of my depth. However, apply I did and I was accepted, despite an interview which started chillingly: 'Good morning, Mr. Smith. You didn't do at all well in your mathematics. How do you think you did in history?'. After that introduction, I read neither history nor (surprisingly) mathematics, but law instead.

I am glad I did - law can be an interesting subject if you are willing to persevere at it. At least nobody expects you to know anything about the subject when you start. The bad news is that students need to read quite a lot to understand what is going on. Once the reading has been mastered, thinking about the subject is rewarding. Law involves both concepts and people; issues of justice between people or between the individual and the State bring challenging problems. I have always felt that the subject is half-way between the Sciences (involving a fair amount of work) and the Arts (thinking and writing about ideas).

I enjoyed my three years at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. At 18, three years can seem a long time, but all students find that they go very quickly in the perennial rush that constitutes term. As I write this on a sunny summer's afternoon, I am reminded of delightful afternoons spent on punts. Some of my friends salved their consciences by bringing their books with them. I never tried - it is much better to set out to have fun. Anyway, whenever I punted water seemed to go over everybody and everything in the punt!

I then taught law at Birmingham for a year before returning to Cambridge to teach. My job was limited to five years and that did not seem much safer than in the unemployment situation of today. So in 1974 I moved to Oxford, where I have been a Fellow and Tutor in Law at Magdalen College ever since.

I enjoy living near Oxford. The area is not unlike Alcester: after all, it is just the other side of the Cotswolds. For a student, Oxford itself is an excellent place to be. Quite apart from the architecture of the Colleges and the University, the city has a life of its own that is not overwhelmed by the University. There are a lot of students but they do not dominate Oxford - the only people to do that are the tourists in summer. I also think that it is a good place to study - in colleges, students get to know lots of friends in other subjects, which makes life more interesting. Numbers reading a subject in a college are likely to be around 12 a year or fewer. This means that tutors can get to know their students well and really treat them as individuals. But an Oxford law tutor would say that, wouldn't he?

I hope that more Alcester students will come to Oxford. I quite often interview people who are uncertain about Oxford or uncertain about law. If you fall into either of these categories, I would be delighted to invite you to Oxford to chat about prospects. Getting into Oxford is not easy, but nor is it unduly difficult.

Roger J. Smith (1960-67)

## SCHOOL REGISTER

### FAREWELL

Autumn '84 - Summer '85

Sally Smith (from 1S), Daniel Smith (from 4S), Tracey Masterson, Jacqueline Bailey, Suzanne Coldicutt, David Squires, Stephen Jackson and Russell Harrison (all from L6).

Summer '85

U6 PDNB

Paul Appelquist, Alan Baker, Kevin Brannan, Richard Catterall, Clive Cowin, David Holloway, Jonathan Smith, Marianne George, Mary Laughlin, Sandra Oddy, Carole Retter.

#### U6 DKB

Simon Crick, Stephen Hemingway, Neil Johnson, Iain King, Richard McCarthy, Clifford Moore, Matthew Probert, Fiona Apsley, Leila Khan, Jane Lewis, Helen Young.

#### U6 LCG

Richard Brice, Andrew Buxton, Jonathan Guest, Trevor Humphrey, David Laughlin, Colin Martin, Brian Nicholson, Anne Buszard, Andrea Copping, Sarah Jones, Sally Martin.

#### U6 CJJ

Glenn Anderson, Christos Christou, Declan Gilroy, Neil Hoare, Giles Martin, Gregory Mason, Julian Murgatroyd, Mark Waldron, Fiona Davis, Sarah Harris, Lynn Tyrer, Nicola Vizor, Lisa Gascoigne.

#### U6 BEWW

Martin Barlett, James Butterworth, Jeremy Cuffe, John Holder, Robert Knight, James Leek, James Powell, Timothy Shaw, Fiona Lawrence, Judith Ratledge.

Fifth Form Leavers : Peter Charlton, Maxwell Harris, Paul Lane, Philip Marklew, Sara Beaumont, Nicola Cooper, Joanna Cummings, Alexandra Hartwell, Emma Lediard, Vanice Mills, Annette Worrall, Timothy Crick, Christopher Guillaume, Michael Pegg, Megan Atherton, Jane Evans, Alison Grubb, Andrea Woodrow.

From 2M James Holder

From 2S Brendon Tattersall

#### WELCOME

##### Autumn '84 - Summer '85

To 2M : Nicola Griffin (from Bidford High School); Rebecca Holt (from Beaconsfield High School).

To 2S : James Hutson (from Ardenhurst School, Henley); Joseph Lister (from Birchensale Middle School).

To 4S : Christopher Holt (from Dr. Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham).

##### Autumn '85

#### Form 1M

David Allard, John Bowen, Steven Brewer, James Clark, Andrew Easthope, Matthew Edwards, Barrie Gill, Robin Green, Nicholas Higginson, Matthew Mattocks, Matthew Wakelam, Rolan White, Gregory Wye, Odette Andrews, Dawn Clee, Sally Godfrey, Melanie Hayden, Georgina Haywood, Sarah Hill, Louise Kenney, Tamsin Mountford, Christina O'Dell, Kathryn Pearson, Emma Pinches, Laura Pugh, Philippa Richards, Miranda Swinn, Lisa Travell, Rachel Walker, Victoria Watts, Emma Worsnop, Susan Roberts.

#### Form 1S

Christopher Allen, Jonathan Aston, Benjamin Boxall, Johnnie Chan, Ian Clark, Jonathan Cooper, Huw Davies, Henry Howells, John Kemp, Craig Millard, James Smart, Simon Vincent, Daniel Woodhouse, Carol Ashworth, Victoria Bartholomew, Sarah Brownsword, Gayle Cogswell, Phillippa Dunnage, Louise Dyke, Trudi Gould, Nicola Horton, Anna Jarmy, Caroline Jones, Helen Newbrook, Winifred Parker, Emma Perrett, Joanna Rayner, Zoe Speakman, Gwen Thomas, Virginia Wright.

To 2M : Ian McLean from Bidford High School.

To 2S : Sandra Howgate from Walters Ash Middle School, High Wycombe.

To 3S : Yvette Andrews from The British School, Oslo.

To 4M : Aneela Juned from Moulton School, Moulton, Northampton.

#### Lower Sixth

From Greville High School

Daniel Gauntlett, Bruce Kirby, Martin Lewis, Simon Taylor, Paul Walker, Lisa Goode, Delena Harris, Denise Hoare, Alison Leavesley, Clare Osborne.

From Studley High School

Derek Close, Christo'her Holmes, Justin Kerridge, Peter Laband, Damon Shinnie, Louise Barney, Jayne Hill, Michelle Lawley, Rachel Roberts.

From St. Benedict's High School

Adriano Dionisi, Justin Longstaff, Gerard Mayhew, Thomas Rugg, Neil Styles, Helen Capes, Jane Frost, Louise Jervis, Julie Young.

From Henley High School

Steven Brookes, Shirley Clayton, Kirsty Lorentz, Kathryn Smith.

From Other Schools and Colleges

Nicholas Bunting (King Edward's School, Bath), Paul Howl (Newcastle Emlyn School, Dyfed. Paul is an Old Scholar; he left us in 1982), Michael Juned (Moulton School, Northamptonshire), Lilli Clarke (Kingsley School, Leamington Spa), Isabel Ditchburn (Edgbaston Church of England College), Rosalind Green (Alice Ottley School, Worcester), Angela Read (Vale of Catmose College, Oakham), Emma Ryley (St. Mary's Convent, Worcester), Penelope Turnbull (Hinchingsbrooke School, Huntingdon), Rebecca Turner (St. Mary's Convent, Worcester).

Upper Sixth (Third Year)

Karen Broad (Edgbaston Church of England College).

# APPEAL

Each year Miss Morris makes tremendous efforts to collect the examination results of our Old Scholars who have completed courses in Higher Education but even so we never obtain a complete coverage. Some colleges and universities do send us the results of our Old Scholars, but the vast majority do not. May we appeal to all Old Scholars to send us details of their examination successes? Like all Old Scholars' news, which we are always pleased to have, the examination results should be sent to the school in writing, addressed to Miss Morris. The sooner we receive your news the better; anything received after the middle of September risks missing our deadline.

## APOLOGIES

One of the function of 'The Record' is to act as the school archive - a record of our activities year by year. From time to time errors creep in, despite our careful efforts to eliminate them. The best we can do when this happens is to publish corrections to set the record straight. So please accept our apologies for the following errors which have been belatedly discovered in last year's edition of 'The Record', No. 150:

Page 2 - The new Sixth Form Common Room opened on December 20th 1983, not 1984.

Page 16 - We failed to credit John Ratcliffe second place in the Junior Boys Javelin event on Sports Day.

Page 43 - Miss Rowberry came to teach History, not the hitherto unknown discipline of Hisotry.

## LATE NEWS

### 1985 LEAVERS

Simon Crick has obtained a place at the University of Essex to read Economics.

David Holloway has changed from Geography/Geology to Mining Engineering at the University of Cardiff.

Glenn Anderson is to read Medicine at the University of Birmingham not St. George's Hospital Medical School.

Alan Baker is to read History at University College London, not at Edinburgh.

Helen Young is to take Biology at Oxford Poly, not at Royal Holloway College.

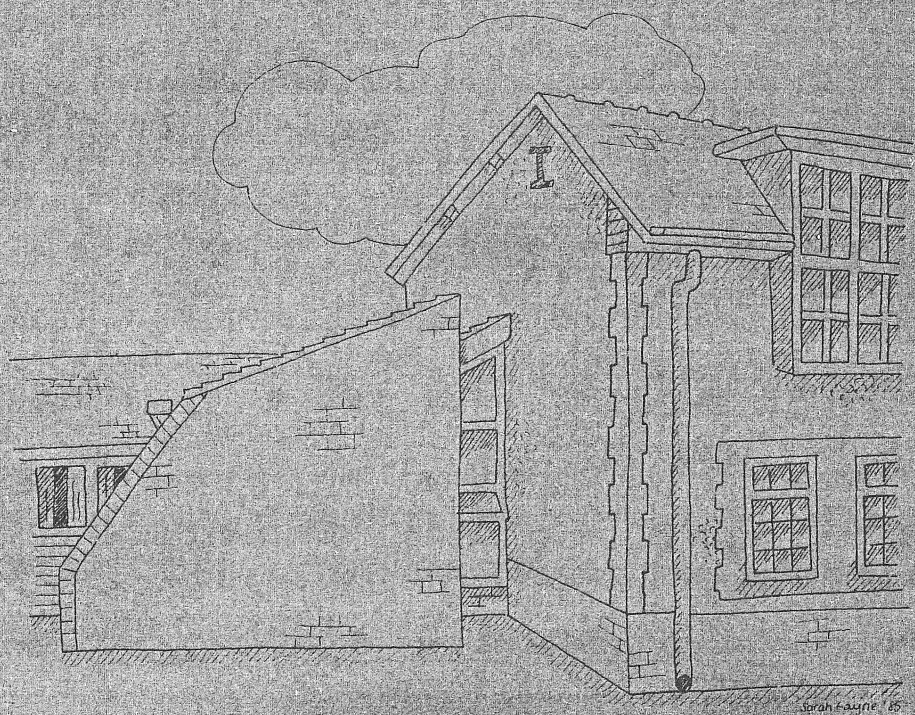
Matthew Probert has obtained sponsorship from British Aerospace for five years in the form of a 1:3:1 thick sandwich and will work at Stevenage, Herts. for the industrial experience section.

### OTHER NEWS

Mrs. Preston-Mafham joined us in September 1985 to teach Mathematics.

Louise Jervis (L6) has been selected to play for Warwickshire at Netball.

Sally-Anne Holt (1974-81) has just obtained a post as the Factory Micro-Biologist for Alveston Kitchens in Redditch to start at the end of October. After finishing her TEC Diploma in Home Economics she worked at Campden Food Preservation Research Association for a year.



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